

# Government is defeated on first devolution Bill clause

The Government was defeated by 15 votes on the first clause of the Scottish devolution Bill last night. Its Liberal supporters in the Commons, as well as the Scottish and Welsh nationalists and some left-wing Labour MPs, voted against the clause, which asserted the unity of the United Kingdom, because "it made no statutory difference to the Bill".

## Liberals vote against 'unity' assertion

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Government was stunned by a defeat last night in the Commons at the very outset of the committee stage of the Scotland Devolution Bill. The Bill's first clause, asserting that its provisions "do not affect the unity of the United Kingdom", was lost by 199 votes to 184.

The defeat was caused by Liberals and Scottish Welsh nationalists voting against. The Liberals held clause one to be irrelevant and yet wanted their vote to be seen as a shot across the Government's bows, showing that they should not be taken for granted.

But there was further confusion in Labour voting, with a warning from some members of the left-wing Tribune Group that they would vote in both lobbies to emphasise their dissent with the Government's imposition of a whip later this week on the European Assembly Elections Bill.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour, West Lothian) voted with the Conservatives on their amendment: Mr William Latham (City of Westminster, Labour), voted in both lobbies. He joined on the vote on the clause by Mr Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selby, Oak).

That tended to confirm the defeat was no accident. There was a two-line whip on the clause, and as it approached, the Government whips, took vain emergency action to locate their malingers.

The Conservative Front Bench promptly demanded that the Government should "draw stumps", apparently meaning only an adjournment for reconsideration. But when opposition backbenchers demanded that the Bill should be abandoned, Mr Foot, Leader of the House, indicated it would go on, amputated of its opening clause.

Mr Foot, who was not in the Chamber when the tellers returned with the surprise result, admitted that the defeat was a setback. But he insisted that the House should "cool down" and added: "It is not the end of the world; it is certainly not the end of the Bill."

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, maintained that the loss of the clause was of no great moment. He said both sides had agreed in the debate that the clause made no "statutory" difference.

But Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton, Pavilion, countered that since the lost clause had held that the Scotland Bill did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom, the vote meant that the House felt that the unity was thereby affected and wanted nothing of it. Citing Mr Foot's Cromwellian erudition Mr Amery urged: "Take away this bauble."

The defeat was reminder of the Government's debacle last February with the combined Scottish and Welsh devolution Bill. However, this time the Government was determined to put a bold face on what was almost being deemed an oversight in government circles. To that extent the defeat does not undermine the progress of the bill but it is bound to make future voting unpredictable and take away some of the Government's political self-assurance. It is, after all, a minority government.

The defeated preliminary clause read: "The following provisions of this Act make changes in the government of Scotland as part of the United Kingdom. They do not affect the unity of the United Kingdom or the sovereignty of Parliament to make laws for the United Kingdom or any part of it."

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Madame Tussaud at the age of 84, from an 1845 painting by Paul Fischer.

Tussaud's rejects £9.5m offer

By Bryan Appleyard  
Financial Staff

Madame Tussaud's rejected a £9.5m offer from S. Pearson and Son, the newspaper and banking conglomerate, last night.

Mr Michael Herbert, chief executive of Tussaud's, the waxworks group, said that a cash offer of 45p a share was "totally inadequate", adding that it had come as a surprise.

The idea of an offer arose from an approach by Tussaud's to Pearson's with a view to buying Chessington Zoo, Pearson's main entertainment interest, which drew 835,000 visitors last year.

Mr Michael Hare, a director of Pearson and chairman of the zoo, said the board saw the logic of the move but preferred to expand companies rather than sell them.

His company's idea is that Tussaud's would be merged with Chessington to form a leisure division within Pearson and the Tussaud management would remain.

He said: "They have special skills on the non-animal side. At Chessington we have improved the animal side a great deal. The entertainment side could be sensibly taken in hand and developed and they are good people to do so."

Mr Herbert, however, said he could see no commercial logic in the move. Tussaud's had been completing the deal for taking over Chessington by the end of the year and had planned to expand entertainment.

Tussaud's has been having a good year. Pre-tax profits in the first six months were 70 per cent up, at £549,000, and last year's record total of two million visitors to the London waxworks has been exceeded.

Tussaud's board is meeting this morning to discuss its official response to the offer. Letters will then be sent to the 4,000 shareholders. About a quarter of the equity is held by financial institutions.

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The take-off from Heathrow airport, London, was carefully timed to fit in with the Air France departure. The British Concorde was held at the end of the runway until a signal was received from Paris by Captain Brian Walpole, the aircraft commander, that the French Concorde had left. The four Rolls-Royce Olympus engines, each developing 38,000lb of thrust, blasted us off the ground at a speed of 240 mph.

Over the Atlantic at 1,350 mph and 55,000ft, we were served lunch of dressed crab, roast saddle of lamb and strawberries with Dom Perignon 1970 champagne.

In a reference to the two years of legal wrangling before Concorde received permission to land in New York, Mr Stratton said: "There are some New Yorkers who still see Concorde as an insidious little grub eating its way into the core of the big apple, seriously threatening the city's environment."

"During the coming months I am confident that Concorde will prove itself to be no such threat, and at the end of the trial period it will be found acceptable by the airport management, the regulatory authorities and the people of New York."

Mr Stratton added that new super-sonic services could now be achieved through "a united nations of Concorde operators" to places such as Jiddah and Kuwait, in the Middle East, Melbourne, Hongkong, Bangkok and Tokyo, in the Far East, and to Lagos in West Africa.

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## HOME NEWS

## Pay slips emphasize plight of family men in fire service

By Craig Seron

"I wanted to put out fires and protect people," Mr Geoffrey Webb said yesterday, explaining why he had left a "boring" apprenticeship as a motor mechanic. He could manage on his take-home pay of £185 a month but he was on strike with the rest of Britain's firemen to support the men with families who could no longer afford to pay their bills.

Sitting at the side of a brother outside the Downgate fire station, in the City of London, Mr Webb, who is 20, says he joined the service five months ago and had three months' training before starting to fight fires.

With Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, hanging in effigy from a wall near by, Mr Webb and his colleagues produced their pay slips to show why they feel they have an indisputable case for a rise of well over the 10 per cent envisaged in the Government's pay guidelines.

Mr Webb said: "I do not know how the married blokes live, but unless we get more money now I know I shall be in the same position in a few years. I am thinking about getting engaged, but how could I manage? I could never get a mortgage."

Mr Webb's pay slip showed that his basic wage for October was £222, only £44 short of the basic rate for a colleague who has been in the service for 11 years. It is that prospect that worries young firemen and recruits who want to make fire-fighting a career.

His additional "allowances" of £51.15 are the London weighting of £415 a year plus travelling expenses for 40 miles each way a day. A further £13.10 pay supplement represents the settlements under phases one and two of the Government's pay policy, a policy that firemen say has destroyed their standard of living in two or three years.

That total payment of £286 a month is immediately reduced by £100, mainly £64.25 tax, £16.46 national insurance and £19.31 superannuation.

Mr Webb and his colleagues concede that the allowances figure may cloud the picture and point out the only London fireman benefit. One man, it was said, received £241 in allowances, more than half his basic salary, and that might give the impression, they feared, that firemen had no claim for special treatment.

The only reason for that man's large allowance was the distance

he travelled from Brightingsea, in Essex, and it was consumed in fares. Many men, they said, had to live well outside London to be able to afford to buy houses, but then they faced enormous travelling costs.

Mr Webb said: "I do not want to leave the job, but I want a living wage. I live with my parents, so it is now so bad, but I could earn more in an unskilled job."

Station Officer James Kennedy, who has been in the service for 18 years and is married, with two children, entertained the men yesterday by playing his bagpipes. "Not a joke," he was quick to say. He played the bagpipes in his spare time to earn extra money, money he could not afford to be without.

Last month his net pay was £245.85. Was that not ridiculous, he asked, considering his experience and expertise? He is 39 now, in the service until he retires, and determined to stay on strike as long as it takes to get a "living wage".

Mr Kennedy's basic wage is £341 a month, working a 48-hour week and his gross pay, including allowances, pay supplement and a small amount of overtime, which is normally not done, was £417.30 in October.

His deductions were £171.45, including £32.15 rent for his fire service accommodation at Enfield, North London. A home of his own, with a mortgage would be out of the question, he said. Tax took £85, national insurance £23.99 and superannuation £28.22.

Mr Michael Gavston, a fireman in his ninth year, also takes home between £240 and £250 a month. Married with two children, he lives in a council house, because his three attempts to get a mortgage all failed. "The GLC offered me £7,000 mortgage on my salary. What will I buy in London?", he asked.

"People must realise that the London weighting and the travelling allowances are taxed. That is why we are concerned only with our basic pay. As a fireman I am now on top pay, although after 15 years I shall get an extra 3p an hour more, is that what I have to look forward to?"

The firemen realize that the Government has dug in for a long time. But they insisted yesterday, the tenth day of the strike, that they could continue for 20 or 30 or even 40 days before they would contemplate a settlement on the Government's terms.

## Union chiefs scorn statement by employers' chairman that extremists have taken control of the dispute

## Intimidation of non-strikers alleged

By Donald McIntyre

Labour Reporter

Mr Martin Brannan, chairman of the employers' side of the national joint council for the fire service, said yesterday that he had been asked to take action over the "intimidation" of firemen not on strike.

He said: "I have had a number of reports of the use of flying pickets, and one member of one council in the South told me that the 'heavy gang' had arrived in his area."

Mr Brannan, a Conservative member of Cumbria County Council, said three letters from prominent members or officials of councils had asked him to seek assurances from the Fire Brigades Union that non-strikers would not be "victimized" when the dispute was over.

He said three stations run by part-time (retained) firemen had closed because they had been warned by strikers that they would be "blacklisted" after the dispute was over. Mr Brannan declined to name the stations.

He was speaking the day after a BBC radio interview in which he said evidence had been given to him "that the control of the strike has passed from the (union) executive into the hands of International Socialists and members of the Broad Left".

Mr Brannan yesterday stood

by that allegation, condemned by a senior official of the union as "absolute utter nonsense" and added that he believed that threats of victimization were also the work of extremists.

He added: "This is an assumption and not based on hard factual evidence. I have not had the time to dig fully into it."

Mr Brannan said "extremists" had been putting "overt and covert" pressure on strikers. He pointed out that the paper of a militant group called "Rank and File" within the Fire Brigades Union Party offices in Seven Sisters Road, London.

He added: "The paper is very radical in tone and it has exacerbated the strike. In this country we tend to ignore these things. The average man in the street does not know what is behind it."

Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, condemned Mr Brannan's statement on Monday. He pointed out that the strike decision had been taken by a majority of nearly two to one at a national delegates conference at which every member was an accredited representative of the union.

Last night Mr Daniel Riddell, one of the union's five national officers, said: "Mr Brannan has been very helpful to us in the past and I am

surprised that he should say something which is absolute utter nonsense."

"Fickens have been going to other areas where there is a request to do so from a brigade union official, but the people involved are all firemen. Some of our people have been getting requests from students and groups such as the SWP and the Workers' Revolutionary Party to let the strikers picket, and the reaction of our blocks has been 'bugger off'."

Mr Riddell said there had been bitterness among some strikers against retained firemen who were working normally, and it was possible that some had been told that the striking firemen would not work with them again when the dispute was over. "This has not been discussed by the executive."

Mr Brannan's company, Brannan Thermometers, was faced a few years ago with an official strike by members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. The stoppage lasted in 1971 and lasted more than a year. He said yesterday: "That has in no way influenced what I have been saying. I am in no sense anti-union."

Mr Brannan has now retired from the company.

A reply of the national joint council's employers' side emphasized last night that Mr Brannan had made his remarks in a personal capacity.

## Belfast fears of booby traps at burning buildings

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

Fears of elaborate trap devices prevented British Army firefighters yesterday from saving two Belfast business premises attacked by the Provisional IRA as part of an increasing campaign to take advantage of the firemen's strike.

The destruction of a furniture store and a car hire business brought to seven the number of commercial premises attacked by the IRA in the 24 hours that ended at 6 o'clock last night.

Over the past six days the Army has encountered three potentially lethal anti-personnel traps close to fire hydrants. The most serious was an 8lb bomb operated by a lifting mechanism attached to a hydrant near the bombed Co-operative store. It was while it was being investigated by a robot.

## Poverty trap 'cancels out benefit of 10% offer'

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

The Lothian and Borders fire brigade usually answers at least a hundred calls a day. Yesterday its appliances were sent to a residential property on a street in Edinburgh. The man said they had handed their responsibilities on to the Army because they could no longer afford to work.

The Fire Brigades Union, membership of which costs 27p a week, has lost the resources to provide strike pay, but from December 1 firemen's dependents will become eligible for help from the State.

"I have been a fireman 20 years, and with all the benefits there will be only £5 a week less going into my home when I am on strike than at work. Some of the men who actually have better off, that is how poor our pay is," Mr Michael Jones, of Edinburgh, said.

More than half the Lothian and Borders brigade have less than five years' service, which means that a man with two

children may take home as little as £39.46 a week.

The 20 pickets outside the central station in Edinburgh have been told to work on their own financial position. One young fireman calculated that Mr Callaghan's 10 per cent offer would leave him no better off.

He was explained, in the poverty trap. He received family income supplement, his children had free school meals and there were rebates on rent and rates. The offer would mean that he would be lifted above the poverty line and lose £5.60 a week in benefits. His income would rise by 20p a week.

Since the strike began the Edinburgh firemen have collected 26,000 signatures from the public supporting them. The union said yesterday that strict watch was being kept to stop any firemen "moonlighting" (doing another job).

A call centre will be made and anyone absent had to have a convincing excuse.

## Public's warmth reassures Blue Watch

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

Amid the affluence of Solihull, the least desirable residence yesterday was the open transverse lean-to of the five members of Blue Watch picket outside the fire station.

But a town usually said to be totally involved in its material welfare has shown a warmth to the firemen that touches and reassures them.

"From the things that have happened here in the past week they are as good as gold and it has given us a lot of encouragement to know such people are firmly behind us," a picket said.

ash donations have been constant and regular, as have supplies of soup, sandwiches, cases of tinned food, bottles of spirits and beer and the replenishment of timber for the braziers that glow day and night like a beacon.

Motorists constantly wave and blow their horns, the petition forms accumulate, and offers of hot food and drink increase all the time.

The pickets said: "We have had only one man shout abuse and he nearly fell off his bicycle as he was so drunk."

Two men on the Blue Watch produced recent pay slips as evidence for their cause.

Roger Keyes, aged 39, married with two children, aged 10 and 12, has 16 years' service. His fortnightly slip showed he earned £137.28 gross, with total deductions of £58.70, including £21.05 income tax, £7.90 national insurance, £9.15 superannuation, 54p union subscriptions and 6p welfare fund. That left him £28.53 for two weeks.

He has a mortgage of just over £57 a month and has yearly rates of £81. His wife works as a nursing auxiliary, which, because of shift work, means that they do not see each other for intervals of days.

Weekend slots, a single man, aged 21, has been in the service for three years, but is not a qualified fireman. His slip showed that for a 96-hour fortnight he earned £114.93 gross. Total deductions were £40.54, including £25.50 income tax, £6.58 national insurance, £7.64 superannuation, 72p union subscriptions, 4p benevolent funds and 6p welfare fund. That left him £74.39 for two weeks.

In another and totally dissimilar area in the West Midlands, the pickets sheltering under plastic sheeting at Moseley Road station, in Birmingham, said public support was overwhelming. The station covers an inner area of the

city and has about an eighth of its population.

SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN GENEROUS THERE. The two women who gave £5 in five minutes yesterday were said to be typical examples.

Almost every night the pickets have helped accident victims at a crossroads near by. One early morning also had an accident when a woman was hit by a car. "Goodness," the pickets drew up and the soldiers stumbled out with hoses to put out the fireman's roaring bonfire.

The Moseley Road men asked the other than their Solihull colleagues, but they were concerned about younger firemen, such as one with two children earning £42 a week net.

Station Officer David Anderson said his son, aged 22, was able to earn £42 net for a 48-hour week at Leyland, Longbridge, and up to £70 with overtime. After 31 years' fire service, Mr Anderson earns just under £60 a week. Sub-Officer Peter Longdon, aged 52, with 29 years' service, said his fortnightly net wage was £104.

Station Officer George Johnson, who was critical of senior officers, said: "It is their duty to support us. The truth is that the fire service has been kept going by men who had to get through the job. Now this will no longer do."

## Three-shift system for picket duty

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

No one tries to break the firemen's strike in Barry, South Glamorgan, but the 30 men who usually man the fire station in the town centre operate a three-shift system to maintain a constant picket outside the closed doors.

They sit around a brazier fuelled by coal given by well-wishers. Every so often a passing shopper throws a coin into a collection bucket. Others stop to sign a petition, which now

runs to several sheets, containing hundreds of names. Passing cars honk and drivers raise their thumbs in support.

One man arrived with a calculating machine and decided that if the firemen achieved their aim of a 30 per cent pay rise they would take home £58.50. He then gave them that amount of money.

The firemen believe they have even more public support than the miners in 1974. Mr David Cole, the union official representing the Barry station, said: "Our mood is hardening,

and with it our determination. This strike has not really begun yet."

Mr Donald Culler, a junior officer who has been with the service for 23 years and is sometimes responsible for running the station. "For that degree of responsibility in a high-risk area, which includes oil and chemical plants, I take home £47 a week. My daughter will soon start work for more than that amount. It makes me sick to go on strike, but now I am determined to see it through."

Mr Alfred Morris, Under-Secretary of State (Disabled), said in a parliamentary written reply yesterday that "any person suffering from Down's Syndrome who satisfies the criteria can qualify for the allowance."

But Mr Walker said the answer did not explain why the department was trying to have the allowance denied to the boy, and the only implication was that it did not consider Down's Syndrome a sufficiently severe handicap.

## Bold action on youth unemployment urged

By Our Labour Reporter

Policy divisions have emerged between Youthaid, a privately sponsored pressure group, and the government-financed Manpower Services Commission on how to tackle the acute and growing level of youth unemployment.

An analysis of the question was produced yesterday by Youthaid. It concludes that short-term measures need to be replaced with bold, selective action. That should involve work creation and preservation measures, including the stimulation of labour intensive industries, more training and education and new combinations of work education and training.

Mr Christopher Brooks, an economist and director of Youthaid, said the time had come "for some serious surgery". The challenge should be to create a new structure of the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Employment, and the Home Office.

He added: "The Manpower Services Commission is working on the fringe. We should like a Cabinet committee to give immediate attention to the problem. The people most in need are not getting help."

Youthaid says in its analysis that measures should be directed to young people most affected by unemployment: the 300,000 who leave school each year without academic qualifications or entry to training.

The Government's new youth unemployment programme, beginning next year, will provide only 134,000 places at one time, the report says, while the total of young people unemployed is likely to be three times that size.

There were 253,000 unemployed school-leavers at July this year. "The trend in youth unemployment is up. It is up in good times as well as bad, and it is accelerating faster than the general trend in unemployment."

In its conclusions, Youthaid says "Education and training must be geared to the opportunity structure for young people and to a realistic assessment of the level at which they will subsequently enter the labour market."

## The North gets its own opera

From a Staff Reporter

Leeds

By happy coincidence yesterday the festival of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music, was chosen to announce the formation of a new opera company, English National Opera North.

It will be based on the Grand Theatre, Leeds. An offspring of the English National Opera, it is the first full-time opera company formed in England for more than thirty years. It will cost £1m a year to operate, a third of which, it is hoped, will be recovered from the box office and two thirds from subsidies.

The Arts Council will guarantee £456,000 for the first seven months, operation, to April, 1979, and thereafter, with local authorities in Yorkshire, will guarantee a part of the costs.

Lord Harewood, managing director of English National Opera, said that for some time it had been obvious that the system whereby each year English National Opera split into two and ran two tours simultaneously was neither sensible nor economical. It left the company open to criticism for not fielding a top team on any given tour.

The company will open on November 15, next year, with a production of Saint-Saens's *Saens and Delilah*. There will be three more seasons in Leeds before the end of May, 1979, with plans for visits to other centres in Yorkshire and further afield.

The company will have the use of some of its parent company's facilities but in effect it will be independent.

Mr David Lloyd-Jones is to be the music director and the company will have its own conductors, music staff and producers as well as a full operatic orchestra and chorus.

## Thieves take half a house

Nottingham police are looking for thieves who have stolen half a house. The first floor of the house, in Unwin Road, had been completed, but the thieves dismantled all five thousand bricks and loaded them, with two thousand concrete blocks, on to a vehicle.

## £1,000m call to save energy use

By Our Planning Reporter

Energy conservation needs £1,000m in the next 10 years, Mr Gordon Graham, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said in his inaugural address to the institute.

Such a commitment would form the fourth "prong" of an energy policy, of which coal production, nuclear power, and research on alternative resources to oil and gas would be the other three.

Mr Graham, whose audience included Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said buildings accounted for up to half the primary energy used in Britain.

The first element in a conservation programme, he said, must be to improve and insulate the fabric of 20 million homes alone that were responsible for about 30 per cent of primary energy consumption. The second should be to upgrade public buildings, which formed about two thirds of non-domestic stock.

He said the drive to insulate buildings must be as vigorous as the clean air campaign.

## Rises in entrance fees to many ancient monuments

The admission charge to the Tower of London, which draws 2,500,000 visitors a year, is to be almost doubled to £1.50 in the high season. The Department of the Environment announced yesterday that the Tower Palace of the high season charge will rise from 50p to £1.

The rises, the first since January, 1976, are to meet the increased cost of upkeep. Admission charges to many other ancient monuments will rise by up to 20p.

At the Tower a three-tier pricing system will be introduced on February 27 to encourage a more even spread of visitors throughout the year. The new charges will be £1.50 (children and pensioners 50p) in July and August; £1 (children and pensioners 50p) from March to June; 50p (children and pensioners 20p) from November to February. Admission will still be free at other times of the year.

At Hampton Court, admission will be £1 (children and pensioners 50p) from April to September and 50p from October to March. Admission will still be free at other times of the year.

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## Arts Council may adopt lending right scheme

By Kenneth Gossling

Arts Reporter

The Arts Council is to consider a non-statutory scheme of public lending right (PLR) that could be administered by the council. The plan has been put forward by authors' groups after a deputation saw the Prime Minister six months ago.

It resembles a scheme operated in Australia and its main advantage is that it would be passed by the Commons and the kind of filibuster that has wrecked attempts at legislation.

Details of the scheme, which has been costed at £450,000 a year, are with Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, minister responsible for the arts.

The literature panel of the Arts Council, which has Mr Melvyn Bragg as its chairman, would make a recommendation to the council in the first instance.

Miss Bridget Brophy, the novelist and playwright, who is executive councillor of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, said the plan proposed to the council is that authors would be regarded as the most feasible way of compensating authors for library loans, and found by the Department of Education and Science to be comparatively cheap.

It is understood that if the Arts Council accepts responsibility for PLR it will do so for a limited period, until it becomes established. Mrs Brophy said it consisted of charging money provided by the Government and setting up a register of entitled writers.

The public libraries would then, she hoped, voluntarily contribute to the scheme. The sample in 72 libraries out of 6,000. That would cost £200,000 a year and an almost equivalent sum would enable the Civil Service side to run the register.

She said the Arts Council is willing to accept the scheme. "The only doubt is whether libraries will cooperate. Their staffs would be paid for any extra work."

Mr Foot, Leader of the House, told the Commons last night that the Commons has agreed to the scheme. It remained committed to the principle of PLR, and a fresh approach was being sought. The Arts Council made clear last night that it had not yet considered any proposals for administering a PLR scheme.

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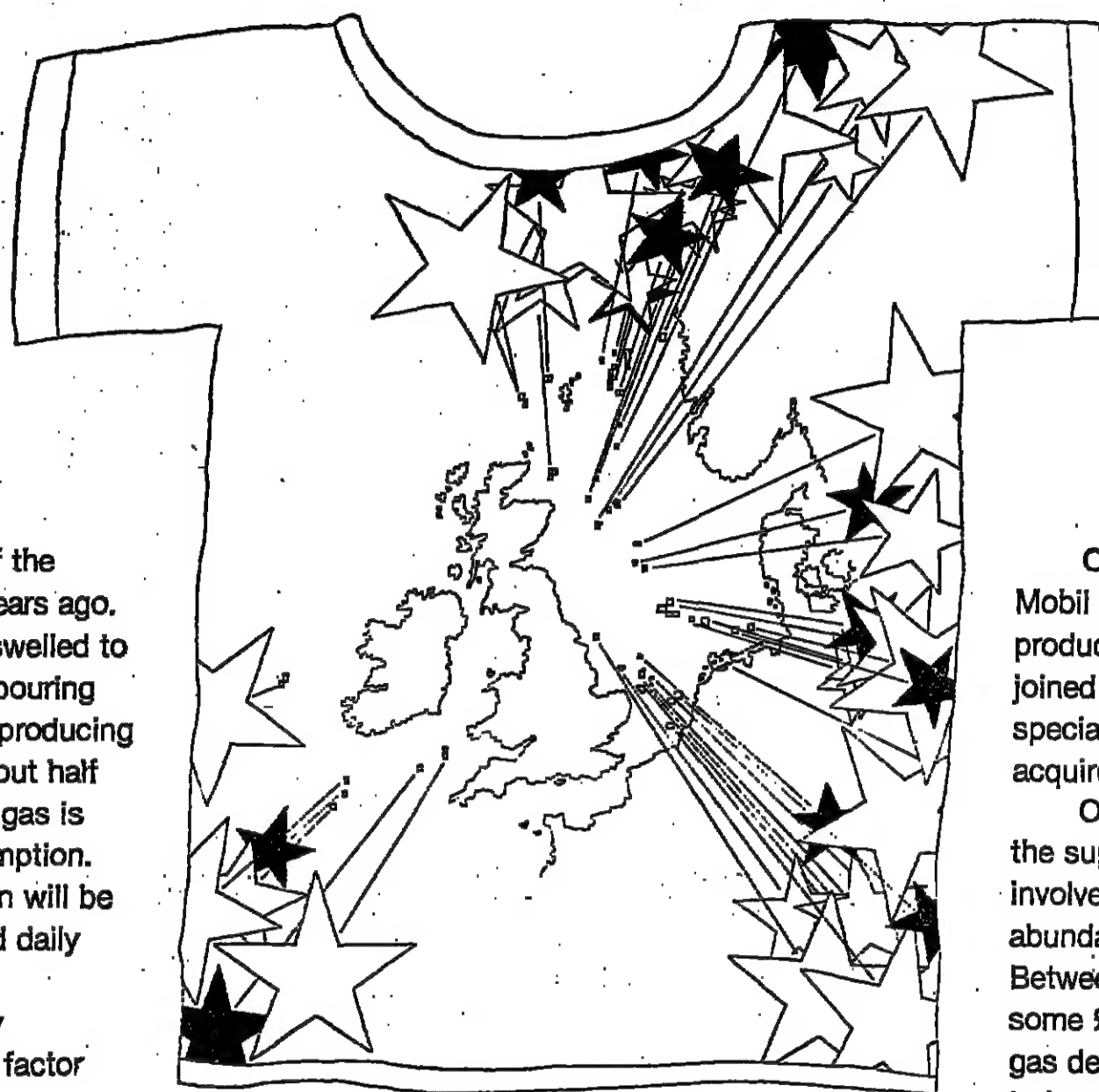
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## "We could be Britain's most important rock group."



The first oil from the British sector of the North Sea arrived on British soil 2½ years ago. What began as a trickle has already swelled to a torrent, with some 800,000 barrels pouring into the U.K. each day from offshore producing fields. North Sea oil now provides about half the nation's requirements; North Sea gas is meeting 99 percent of current consumption.

By the end of this decade, Britain will be self-sufficient in oil, with an estimated daily production rate of 2 million barrels. Indeed, almost incredibly, the country is already on the way to becoming a factor in the world crude oil supply market.

Mobil is proud of its role in helping Britain achieve the remarkable transformation from an oil-importing to an oil-producing nation. Oil from our Beryl discovery is now providing nearly five per cent of the country's requirements. Other fields being evaluated by Mobil and its partners are expected to add to that contribution. And, of course, the search for new fields continues.

The impact of North Sea oil has profoundly affected every segment of the nation's economy. Thanks to North Sea oil, the value of British exports now exceeds the costs of goods purchased overseas, by a healthy margin. An estimated £5,000 million in taxes and royalties will flow into the Exchequer between 1977 and 1980. And by the middle of the next decade, North Sea operators will be paying some £3,500 million annually in taxes and royalties.

New industries have sprung up to provide the material and services needed to support

North Sea activities. "It is our policy to give 'full and fair opportunity' to British firms," says Mobil financial controller Bill Wende. "Over two-thirds of our material and contract service needs are provided from U.K. sources."

The services are many and varied: helicopters, which average 15 flights a week ferrying personnel and equipment between Aberdeen and the Beryl platform and offshore drilling rigs. Supply boats, to carry the estimated 3,600 tons of equipment needed for every North Sea well drilled—everything from diesel fuel to drill pipe to fresh vegetables. Caterers, to prepare and serve 900 meals a day for Beryl platform personnel.

Then, too, there are the workers themselves—who benefit directly from the jobs which North Sea oil has brought. Some 10,000 are currently employed by the industry in offshore exploration and producing activities. Several thousand more serve on pipelaying barges, crane barges and supply boats.

Over 90 per cent of those who work for Mobil in the North Sea are British. To most, oil producing was unfamiliar ground before they joined the company. Through experience and specialised training programmes, they have acquired valuable new skills.

Of course, the costs represented by all of the supplies, services, material and people involved in developing the North Sea's abundant oil and gas resources are enormous. Between 1965 and 1976 oil companies invested some £5,000 million in North Sea oil and gas developments (with perhaps as much again to be spent up to 1980), not counting the millions spent to drill unsuccessful exploration wells.

These costs, however, together with the high risks involved, should be justified by the promise the North Sea holds for making Britain self-sufficient in oil. By year's end, eight separate fields should be producing almost 1 million barrels of oil a day. These fields, together with a similar number likely to be developed, give promise of an additional 1 million daily barrels by 1980.

Long before the world's first well was drilled, American Indians used the black, sticky stuff that seeped out of the ground, for medicinal purposes. They called it 'rock oil.' Today, geologists are frequently referred to as 'rock hounds.' And our success in finding and producing oil—which we've described during the last seven weeks—depends on the presence of various rock types and formations.

So we don't think it inappropriate to describe ourselves as a 'rock group'—one which is aiming for the top of the charts!

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## HOME NEWS

## More state aid for voluntary welfare organizations urged

By Pat Healy

The voluntary welfare sector is thriving despite 30 years of the welfare state, according to the Wolfenden committee report on voluntary organizations published yesterday. But the Government and local authorities should take a more positive attitude towards them because they are financially insecure, unevenly distributed and leave many needs unmet.

More public money should be paid to voluntary organizations, the committee says, because demand for welfare help of all kinds shows no sign of diminishing, and statutory services cannot go on expanding. The Government should review the roles of the official services, the voluntary bodies and the network of informal care by families, friends and neighbours with a view to helping to extend substantially the voluntary sector.

"There is an urgent need to look at the whole present pattern of social and environmental services and the organization of them," the report says. "In some situations it may be more desirable to encourage the voluntary and informal sectors to remain or become major instruments of social services."

The report is the work of a committee of inquiry, chaired by Lord Wolfenden and financed jointly by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial and Carnegie United Kingdom Trusts. It is believed to be the first overall examination of voluntary organizations for thirty years, but many bodies gave it only a qualified welcome yesterday.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Conservative spokeswoman on social services, described the report as defeatist and unlikely to match the expectations the voluntary movement had held out for it. Several voluntary organizations

criticized omissions, particularly for giving little consideration to the contribution of volunteers.

The report points out that the voluntary contribution amounts to about 16 million hours of work each week, at least equal in terms of man-hours to that of all paid staff in local authorities social services departments. Lord Wolfenden said yesterday that little space had been devoted to volunteers themselves because the committee's brief was to examine the organizations for which they worked.

The report is not meant to be a blueprint for voluntary organizations for the next 25 years, he said. "What we set out to do was an assessment. It is not intended to be the last word, but the beginning of a debate for which we have tried hard to provide some of the material and some of the evidence."

The committee wants more public funds made available from existing sources. It also recommends a new departure to help give local organizations some support and to initiate new bodies to meet neglected areas of need. It wants the Government to devote an extra £2.5m a year to "intermediary bodies" such as local councils of social service, rural community councils, and other bodies able to help develop and support local groups.

In addition, it wants the voluntary services unit, which finances organizations working across departmental boundaries, moved out of the Home Office and into the portfolio of a minister without departmental responsibilities.

The Future of Voluntary Organizations—Report of the Wolfenden Committee (Croom Helm, 3-10 St John's Road, London SW1; hardback £6.50, paperback £2.95).

Leading article, page 19  
Quiet revolution, page 18

## Inquiry into motorway service areas

By Alan Hamilton

The Government has set up an independent inquiry into motorway service areas after complaints from travellers.

The inquiry, which will be undertaken jointly by the Department of Transport and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, will be chaired by Mr Peter Prior, chairman of Bulmers, the cider company. He will be assisted by Mr R. W. Davies, an industrialist, Mr George Fitt, a hotelier, and Mr John G. Jones, a lorry driver, and Miss Margaret Jones, consumer correspondent of the Daily Mirror. Mr Prior said yesterday he hoped to have his report ready by the end of June.

The inquiry has been asked to report on how far present facilities meet the convenience of users with regard to price, quality, variety and effective competition and on what further provision should be made. Mr Prior made clear yesterday that he regarded any aspect of motorway service stations as being within his brief.

Members of the committee will set off soon to tour Britain,

often accompanying long-distance lorry drivers and making unannounced visits to the service areas.

Mr Prior was diplomatic about his past experience of motorway eating, but confessed that he usually made his frequent business trips between Hereford and London without stopping.

"We have read Bernard Levin and Egon Ronay on the subject, but we have also read Charles Fort," Mr Prior said, alluding to a recent correspondence in *The Times*. "We have no preconceived notions. We are aware that motorway service areas do not have a monopoly of cheap food."

Critics of motorway food are asking what effective steps the inquiry can take to remedy matters, as most service areas are operated by contractors on a 50-year lease. They can be terminated only for gross breaches of the conditions, which require the provision of good food at reasonable prices. The Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London, S.W.1. Dr Samuel Johnson writing 201 years ago said: "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn." Dr Johnson journeyed to the North on minor roads.

## Licences for betting offices still declining

By a Staff Reporter

The number of betting office licences and bookmakers' permits in force in Britain continues to fall, according to the Betting Licensing Statistics for 1976-77, published yesterday.

On June 1 last 13,254 betting office licences were in force, compared with 13,865 last year, 15 per cent fewer than in 1967. This year there were 8,082 bookmakers' permits in force, down from 8,221 in 1976, and 27 per cent lower than 10 years ago. There was a small increase in the number of bookmakers' permits in Scotland, but otherwise the drop was fairly uniform throughout Britain.

Figures for the number of betting office licences in particular areas show that Liverpool has the most in England, with 5,56 to 10,000 population apart from the City of London, which has 55,58 to 10,000, due to its large working population but few residents.

Rural Oxfordshire has the fewest in England, 1,01 to 10,000 population, closely followed by Solihull, West Midlands, with 1,05.

In Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway, Strathclyde, had the largest proportion, 546 to 10,000, and Bearsden and Milngavie, in the same region, had the fewest: just 0.26 to 10,000. Welsh betting shops were concentrated in the valleys of Mid Glamorgan, 5.41 to 10,000, and least common in Powys, with 1.18.

## Widow murdered

Mrs Dorothy Manley, aged 78, a widow, was found battered to death yesterday at her home in Station Road, Shalford, Surrey, in similar circumstances to another widow's murder two years ago in a village nearby.

Bournemouth, East, by-election: New slant to the party pact  
Former Labour candidate plumps for Liberal

By Michael Hatfield

In the by-election at Bournemouth, East, a Tory stronghold, the Labour candidate, Mr Joseph Goodwin, is the one with the lead. His predecessor in the two general elections in 1974, Mr Desmond Lock, also had one but has shaved it off. More than that, he is backing the Liberal candidate, Mr Donald Mathew.

If that confuses the visitor to the constituency, think how perplexing it must be for those Labour supporters who have to cast their votes tomorrow. Mr Lock explains his conversion in this way: "I think there are a lot of Labour supporters who are extremely grateful to the Liberal Party in their support for the Government and they would like to express their gratitude."

A former Labour councillor in Bournemouth, Mr Lock lives at Cambridge. He is still a member of the Labour Party

which he joined in 1962, but one suspects he will not remain one much longer. The Bournemouth party yesterday demanded an inquiry into his intervention in the by-election and it will be taken up by Labour's eastern region.

Mr Lock argues that a Tory vote is built into the constituency and Mr Mathew has the best chance of winning it over.

The Liberals hold second place in the constituency, although Mr Lock, in his two general election campaigns, helped to reduce their support by 4 per cent, improving his own share of the vote by the same margin. Four per cent is also the distance that separates the Liberal and Labour vote on the basis of the October general election.

Mr Mathew believes it is essential for the Liberals at least to hold their quarter share of the total vote, otherwise "I think the pressure from the Liberal Party in general and Liberal MPs at Westminster to

withdraw from the pact will be very great indeed."

He believes, however, that the seat can be won if the whole of the anti-Tory vote backs him (which is wishful thinking) and is confident that the Liberals' share of the electorate will hold. "If it does not, I do not know where we would go from there," he said yesterday.

The sight of the Liberal pact with Labour operating on the doorstep (Mr Lock accompanied Mr Mathew "on the knocker") is being played down by the Labour camp. "Nobody remembers him," Mr Goodwin said. But just in case some do he has blown the dust off Mr Lock's October, 1974, general election address and the following passage: "It is sometimes argued that the best way to defeat the Conservatives in Bournemouth, East, is to vote Liberal. If you want a Labour government, vote Labour."

To meet the Liberals' so-called "secret weapon" the Labour Party has launched its anti-missile device: Mr Ronald Whitaker, an independent on Bournemouth ranks after a clash of personalities, who is urging people to vote for Mr Goodwin.

In the meantime the Conservative candidate, Mr David Atkinson, a self-confident former national chairman of the Young Conservatives, is galloping rather than coasting to a sizable victory tomorrow night. Candidates: Mr David Atkinson (C), Mr D. Mathew (L), Mr J. Goodwin (Lab), Mr K. McKilliam (Nat Front), Mr W. Books (Democratic Monarchist, Public Safety, White Resident), Mr J. J. Pratt (New Britain Party).

General election: Mr J. H. Cordle (C), 20,790 (51.7 per cent); Mr G. H. Musgrave (L), 10,129 (24.2 per cent); Mr D. E. Lock (Lab), 8,422 (21 per cent); Mr M. Hayes (Nat Front), 828 (2.1 per cent). Election: 10,661 (26.5 per cent). Electorate: 57,010 (turn-out: 70 per cent).

## MPs fight to save the otter

By Penny Symon

The fate of the otter, a rare and endangered species, which the Government wants to add to the list of creatures legally protected under the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act, 1975, is to be discussed by a Commons committee today.

The Department of the Environment announced recently that an order to add the otter to the schedule of wild creatures protected under the Act had been laid before Parliament and would take effect from January 1 next year.

The news cheered campaigning groups until they realised that the order must be before Parliament for 40 days, during which time members of either House may register objections.

The Department was hoping that the order would go through without objection, but said yesterday that a group of Conservative MPs, Mr Kimball (Gloucestershire), Mr More (Lancashire), Mr Brotherton (West Yorkshire) and Mr Cope (Gloucestershire, South), had objected.

Because of that the matter is being discussed by the standing committee on statutory instruments, which has referred back to the floor of the House for final approval, with no further debate. The House of Lords is to debate the order on December 6, as Lord Cranbrook is moving motions against it.

It is thought likely that the Commons will approve the order, but it is possible that the Lords will not, although it is unlikely that the Government would have to reintroduce it. Six species now protected are: greater horseshoe bat, mouse-eared bat, sand lizard, smooth snake, natterjack toad and large blue butterfly.

The department is satisfied that the otter is so rare that its status as a British wild creature is being endangered by any action designated as an offence under the Act. Such offences include killing, injuring, or taking, or attempting to do so.

There are eight otter-hunting packs in England and Wales, but the British Field Sports Society, of which Mr Kimball is chairman, said its objection was based on a report by the Nature Conservancy Council, and other groups, which did not recommend protection for the otter.



Skye, one of 37 otters at the Otter Trust, Earsham, Suffolk.

The Nature Conservancy Council, however, explained that the report was compiled by several groups, of which it was one. But after the report the council recommended to the Government that the order should be made, because it did feel that the otter should be protected.

The otter hunters say they do not kill the animals but that is disputed by several groups fighting to conserve the otter, including the League Against Cruel Sports, the Friends of the Earth Otter Campaign, and Mr Philip Wayne, the founder and honorary director of the Otter Trust at Earsham, Suffolk.

Mr Wayne has been breeding otters since 1965, and hopes that eventually they can be returned to the wild. He has 37 at Earsham, which is open to the public, and eight at the Norfolk Wildlife Park, of which he is director.

"We all hoped that when the order was announced the battle was won," he said. "But it is clear that there is some way to go yet. We are the last country in Europe to give legal protection to the otter. It is a declining species, threatened not only by hunting but also by the destruction of its natural habitat."

## Call for control over EEC food prices in Britain

By Hugh Clayton

Any British government will have to keep control over EEC food prices in this country, Mr Brian Hayes, deputy secretary in charge of farm policy at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

"The right level for prices in this country; the right level, that is for the 'green pound', is a matter for decision on the basis of national interest," he said. "It is not a matter to be organized by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture."

He made clear in what will be seen by farmers as a speech with strong political overtones that his long-standing claim for full integration with the Community's farm price machinery had been rejected in Whitehall.

Mr Hayes said that future governments would want an efficient, prosperous and growing agriculture in Britain. But he added: "The Government has a responsibility to consumers as well as producers to the standard of living of the great bulk of the population, to the need to get inflation under control."

He was pleased that the European Commission was starting to adopt British views about the need to get inflation under control.

EEC food policy, page 18  
Business Diary, page 31

## Manx nationalist party split leads to collapse

From Our Correspondent

Douglas, Isle of Man, 16-year-old Isle of Man nationalist party, appeared to be in collapse yesterday after being split by demands for the Manx Government to stop allowing the British Army to use the island for summer training and to rest troops from Belfast.

The party was becoming increasingly successful with the electorate, having gained its first seat in the House of Keys at a by-election on several local authorities.

A group led by Mr Peter Craine (South Douglas), and including Mr David Kegan, the party chairman, and most of the other senior officials, have resigned and are to hold a meeting next month to form a new party.

They oppose the activities of a faction that has formed an "autonomous" alliance. Mr Craine said yesterday that the faction had aligned itself with the "get the troops out" movement in Britain.

## Manx nationalist party split

From Our Correspondent

The Royal Automobile Club, the largest club left in London, may overcome its financial difficulties with the aid of a plan by European Ferries to turn part of the club's Pall Mall building into a luxury apartment.

The plan was outlined on Monday by Sir Clive Bosson, the chairman, to more than 500 of the 9,000 members. They elected a working committee to examine the plan and other ways to help the club.

Sir Clive said that, under the plan the remainder of the club's lease from the Crown Agents would be assigned to European Ferries for at least £200,000 and the agents would give a new 30-year lease to European Ferries.

The RAC would keep the swimming pool, dining room, bars, public rooms and other facilities.

The rest of the building, much of which is now bedrooms, would be converted into luxury apartments. European Ferries would contribute £750,000 towards refurbishing.

## Apartments plan to help Royal Automobile Club

From Our Correspondent

The best hope for a reduction of the prison population must lie in shorter sentences, a Home Office review of criminal justice policy says. That would follow from changes in remission or parole or in sentencing practices.

Any increase in remission of prison sentences, which is the one safety valve available, could be considered only as a last resort. "While policy must be to encourage the use of existing non-custodial disposals," it is added, "the development of those that employ probation manpower can proceed only as fast as extra resources become available."

The review, published yesterday, considers if present policies are "too soft." It says: "Such research evidence as there is tends to confirm the view that increasing the severity of penalties diminishes the level of recidivism, and the history of penal institutions both in this country and abroad suggest that though the system itself may have a deterrent effect, harshness alone (at any rate of a degree that is acceptable to contemporary British society) is not a general deterrent."

Discussing the prevention of crime through social policy, the review says work is in hand exploring how the Home Office could more readily involve other Government departments,

## Doctors' dilemma over brain-damaged woman

By Lim Poh Choo

Dr Lim Poh Choo, aged 41, a psychiatrist, who went into hospital for a minor operation was condemned to a dreadful fate by an anaesthetist's tragic mistake, Mr Christopher French, QC, her counsel, said in the High Court yesterday.

She suffered massive and permanent brain damage due to oxygen starvation. Mr Justice Bristow was told. She would be mentally and physically disabled for the rest of her life.

The judge raised the question whether Dr Lim should have been allowed to live. He said: "One of the questions that arises is whether it was really wise to bring her back to life in the intensive care unit. Doctors are in an intolerable dilemma."

Mr French replied: "One may have a tragedy, as in this case, or one may have a miracle. This was the dilemma."

Dr Lim, now living in Penang, West Malaysia, claimed damages through her widowed mother, Lim Gim Choo, against Camden and Islington Area Health Authority.

The authority admitted liability and the judge had only to decide the amount of damages to award.

Mr French said Dr Lim had gone into the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London, on February 28, 1973, for a small gynaecological operation. The hearing continues today.

## No endorsement in cases from warden

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham convicted of driving offences involving traffic wardens learnt yesterday after a test case that they can have endorsements removed from their licences.

Judge Seal ruled at Nottingham Crown Court that cases brought by wardens do not carry endorsements. The loophole in the Road Traffic Act, 1972, was discovered when Dr Roy Saunders of Nottingham City Hospital, challenged the wardens' powers after he had been convicted by Nottingham magistrates of ignoring a warden's signs, which caused through traffic lights.

The decision affects motorists throughout the country. Some may have been wrongly charged with driving offences. Mr Saunders' solicitor, Mr David Ritchie, chief prosecuting solicitor for Nottingham said motorists could apply to have endorsements removed. The police have decided not to appeal against the ruling, he said.

There is also likely to be continuing public interest in the involvement of different racial groups in crime. Any changes in attitudes among delinquents in these groups are likely to derive from changes in social policy and public attitudes rather than from activity within the criminal justice system.

The review was prepared especially for internal use. Its publication is intended as a contribution to public debate in line with the Government's declared aim of more openness. A Review of Criminal Justice Policy, 1976 (Stationery Office, £1.25).

## Shorter sentences way to cut jail numbers

From Our Correspondent

The review, published yesterday, considers if present policies are "too soft." It says: "Such research evidence as there is tends to confirm the view that increasing the severity of penalties diminishes the level of recidivism, and the history of penal institutions both in this country and abroad suggest that though the system itself may have a deterrent effect, harshness alone (at any rate of a degree that is acceptable to contemporary British society) is not a general deterrent."

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## Pilot 'lost control' in one-engine practice

The pilot of an RAF Canberra that crashed at Humberston in May, killing three children and the crew of two, was practising landing on one engine, an inquest was told yesterday.

Group Captain Brian Farrer, a Ministry of Defence spokesman, said the most likely cause of the accident was the pilot's loss of control.

The inquest was told that on May 3 the aircraft went on a reconnaissance flight to Scotland from RAF Wyton. After nearly three hours it returned to the base for a practice single engine landing.

As it turned into the approach it began to yaw and dived into a row of houses, wrecking six.

Kelly Middleton, aged two, Tracy Louise Middleton, aged four, and Adrian Thompson, aged six, were killed. Mrs. Road, died from cardiac monoxide poisoning. Flight Lieutenant John Armitage, the pilot, and Flight Lieutenant Lawrence Davies, the navigator, died from severe multiple injuries. The jury returned verdicts of accidental death on the five.

Group Captain Farrer said Flight Lieutenant Armitage had 1,010 hours flying experience, of which 610 were in Canberra. He had applied 92 per cent full power to one engine, "which is more than is recommended—we do not know why". The recommended power was 85 per cent.

Group Captain Farrer explained that wind direction and the runway position meant that the manoeuvre had to be made over a built-up area.

The coroner said: "You might say the house should not have been built; you might say a lot of things. The pilot was competent and had practised the manoeuvre frequently."

## Club director remanded on vice charges

Harry Meadows, aged 38, director of Churchills, the London night club, appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with his son, Andrew, aged 34, and Leslie Borlivo, the club licensee, with living off the earnings of prostitution between February and November.

Mr Borlivo is further charged with knowingly allowing the club premises to be the habitual resort of repeated prostitutes and the Meadows were accused of aiding and abetting him.

All three were granted bail in the sum of £1,500 and remanded until January 17.

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## Prince of Wales tells of royal rubbish collection

From Our Correspondent

The Prince of Wales told a gathering in HMS Belfast in the Thames yesterday that he and his brother Andrew had collected three to four plastic sacks of rubbish at Windsor Great Park on Christmas Day last year.

"It is amazing how much you find," the Prince said, referring to his "dustman's duties". He was putting the royal seal to a community work competition organized by Look and Learn, the children's magazine.

He congratulated 13 communities aged between nine and 16 who had written essays about community work where they live.

The three winning essays were by Suzanne Pentix, aged 16, of Godwin Road, Portsmouth; Kate Mault, aged 16, of Little Newnham, Cambridge; and William McLaren, aged 12, of Skipton, Strathclyde. They carved a Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust "medal" for the Prince.

The Prince, spoke of his rubbish collecting expedition after reading William McLaren's essay in which the village organized a beach clean-up. He also praised the "volunteer" essay, "Rubbish of young people could look at suitable work locally."

## Husband drank weedkiller when he realized mistake

A man whose wife drank parquat, the weedkiller, thinking it was sherry, swallowed parquat himself, and when he realized the mistake, the Leeds coroner was told yesterday.

Mr Josiah Walker, aged 73, of Morning Pastures, Acaster Selby, near York, had later told his daughter-in-law that he might be dead within a week and that she accepted it.

His daughter-in-law, Mrs Frances Walker, of Abbey Road, Knaresborough, told the inquest "He explained that he had taken sherry up to the bedroom while waiting for the kettle to boil."

"Later he heard mother being sick, and she said the sherry tasted funny. Then he

drank what was left in the bottom of the glass. I seem to remember him saying he went downstairs and poured himself some more."

Det Inspector William Herbert said in spite of a search with dogs and divers no trace of the sherry bottle was found.

An open verdict was recorded in the case of Mrs Grace Walker, aged 75, who died in hospital at Leeds on October 6. The coroner recorded a verdict that Mr Walker, who died in hospital next day, killed himself.

Earlier the inquest had been told by Mr Michael Walker, of Pratt Lane, Mirfield, that his mother and father had an extremely fine relationship.

## Four-year cut in sentence for pub bomber

Alexander Brown, aged 19, of Bangor, Co Down, jailed for 14 years for his part in the Biddy Mulligan public house bomb blast in London two years ago, had his sentence cut to 10 years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Mr Brown, a chef, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court on October 12 last year for causing an explosion at the public house, in Kilburn High Road, and plotting to cause an explosion.

The court rejected pleas by three other men for leave to appeal against their sentences for causing the blast and conspiring to cause an explosion.

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If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the supply at the meter—and report the leak. Do this at once. The number's in the telephone directory under Gas—and we're on call 24 hours a day.

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BRITISH GAS




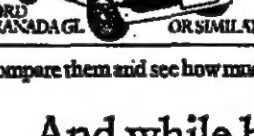
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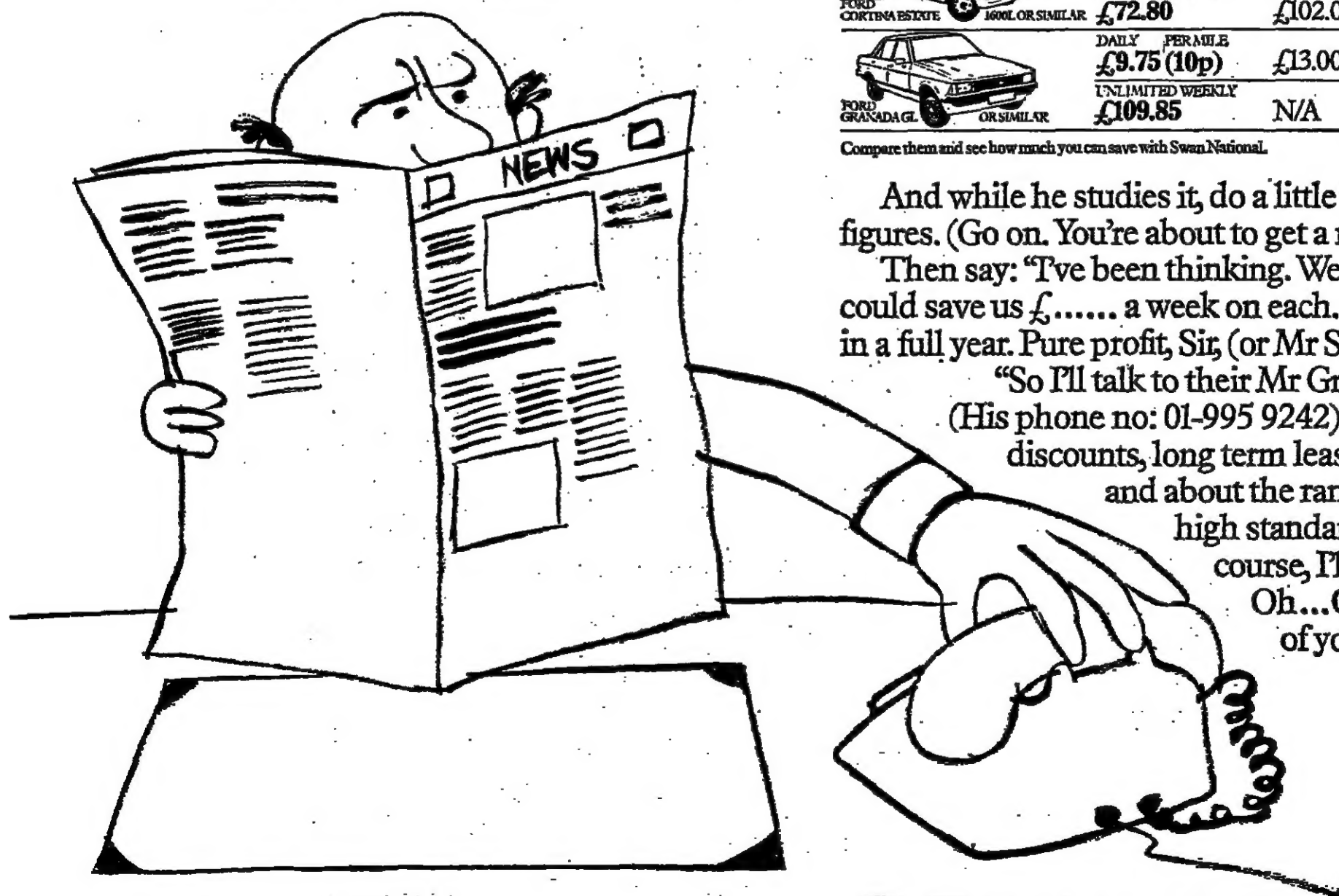
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Hence your Financial Director's interest. And it would be much better to talk to him about it, before he talks to you about it.  
What do you say? Something like this:  
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"And I've discovered a way to boost our profits by renting cars for far less money".  
(Carry on. He's hooked).  
"There's a British company called Swan National. They have 70 locations throughout the country, each operating a one-way rental system at no extra charge. Their fleet of long and short term rental cars is possibly the largest in the land. They have InterRent car rental link-ups in 33 countries. Point is, they charge less. Far less. Look".  
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 FORD CORTINA 1600L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £5.85 (6p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £63.05	£6.25 (6½p)	£6.25 (6½p)	£7.00 (8p)
 FORD CORTINA ESTATE 1600L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £6.75 (7p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £72.80	£8.50 (8½p)	£8.25 (8½p)	(GL model) £11.00 (11p)
 FORD GRANADA GL OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £9.75 (10p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £109.85	£13.00 (12½p)	£12.50 (13p)	(L3 GL model) £19.00 (19p)
		N/A	£141.75	Not shown

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## HOME NEWS

## Trust seeks to curb speculators' demolitions

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The law should be amended to require consent for demolition, which in turn should not normally be granted without permission for re-use of the site, the Civic Trust states in a report published yesterday.

Premature demolition is the commonest immediate reason for land becoming dormant and is sometimes used to engender an impression of progress, the trust says. Private developers are increasingly minded that planning permission for a new building may be easier to obtain for an ugly gap site than an occupied one.

The report also calls for rates to be levied and progressively increased on land left idle for longer than, say, two years. In contrast, encouragement to landscape or reinstate disused land should be encouraged by tax relief.

Despite its moderate language the report is an impressive indictment of the failure of land-use policies and legislation to prevent the haphazard waste of an increasingly precious commodity. Photographs of urban wasteland are vividly contrasted with those of ill-conceived development on the urban fringes, which cause the loss of thousands of acres of productive farmland.

The report distinguishes between the 17,000 acres of land in England and Wales officially classified as derelict and the 250,000 acres that it estimates are merely "dormant". Whereas land made derelict by excavation and other industrial exploitation may require substantial reclamation, "dormant" land could be brought immediately into productive use.

But whereas local authorities are required to carry out regular surveys of derelict and disused land such surveys specifically exclude sites cleared for redevelopment. Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, agreed last year that an estimate of the total amount of unused land held by local authorities, including derelict and disused sites, should be provided only "at disproportionate cost".

To judge from questions raised, mainly by non-journalists, at a news conference yesterday, the report is likely to cause much heart-searching. Mr. Bernard Kauckas, environment director of the British Railways Board, which is criticised in the report, was moved to deny that the board had been neglectful of its duty and to point out that it had disposed of more than 71,000 acres in the past 13 years for various reasons.

Mr. Thomas Cavatoni, secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said local authorities did not like having empty sites all over the place. "But this is the only way to what we can do within the existing restraints," he said.

The report, which is commended by Mr. Shore in a foreword as "timely and independent", relies on a number of sources including the Greater London Development Plan, the government-sponsored Inner Area Studies, an independent land-use survey under the direction of Dr. Alice Coleman, of King's College London, and the results of questionnaires sent to local authority societies.

Among its other more important recommendations are that agricultural land should not be diverted for any other purpose unless it can be shown that the new use is more important and that no alternative site is available; that road construction and improvement plans should be reviewed at least every five years; and that local authorities should grant licences for the short periods for temporary use of vacant sites they own.

Perhaps the best known empty site in Britain is the Sanctuary, opposite Westminster Abbey. Owned, with the embankment, by the Government for nearly thirty years, it has been found no better use than as a car park and a refreshment point for taxi drivers.

The site was formerly occupied by the old Westminster Hospital, damaged by wartime bombing and demolished in 1951. For the site it was considered to be the best quarters of the Colonial Office, until it was decided in 1958 that the need for such an establishment no longer existed.

In 1965 it was encompassed in the fortunately ill-fated Martin/Buchanan plan to demolish and rebuild virtually the whole of Westminster and Whitehall, including the Home Office and the Foreign Office. That plan was abandoned in 1972.

Since then it has been designated for a future government conference centre but, although design competitions have been held, no firm plans have been put forward. Last week the British Tourist Authority said it was interested in using it for a new tourist centre.

Urban Wasteland (Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1, £2 plus 40p postage).



Christmas crisis: To help some of the thousands who, like these two men, will be homeless over Christmas, the charity Crisis at Christmas, yesterday launched an appeal for cash, clothing and food to provide five days of meals and shelter at that time (Annette Ferriman writes). Lady Macleod of Borne, whose husband, the late Mr. Ian Macleod, started the organization ten years ago, said yesterday that it was imperative that the single homeless should be made a priority of local authorities, so that the number of those "who still rot away, homeless and neglected" could be reduced. She had been disappointed at the

low priority given to their needs in the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which becomes operative next week. The situation was deteriorating, as clearance schemes in inner-city areas made cheap lodgings disappear and as a growing number of young people flocked to the big cities looking for work. She was speaking at the St. George's Men's Unit, a Menhaden mission in Cable Street, east London, one of nine hostels for the homeless to which Crisis at Christmas contributes. Crisis at Christmas hopes to raise about £40,000 this year, £3,000 more than last, through a sponsored walk from

Canterbury to London, a concert at Plasencia Hall, London, at which Mr. Edward Heath will conduct, and a carol service at Southwark Cathedral. Several thousand pounds will be spent on providing shelter and about 17,000 meals for the homeless from December 23 to 28 at St. Mary's Church, Lambeth, and the rest will go towards nine rehabilitation centres and hostels throughout the country. Further details of the appeal are available from Crisis at Christmas, St. Vincent's, 85 Carlisle Place, London SW1.

## National priorities suggested for school-building expenditure

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

It would cost more than £1,500m to bring all the 28,000 schools in England and Wales up to acceptable modern standards, a government report published yesterday, says. The Government's present programme provides for only £127m to be spent on school improvements over the period 1976-81.

In a foreword to the report on school building by an inter-departmental study group, Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, makes clear that the total cost of removing all the deficiencies in existing school buildings would be far more than the country could afford for school improvements over the next decade.

National priorities for school building expenditure over the next decade, were therefore needed. A consultative document and the report have been sent to local authorities and the main national educational organizations. Their views are sought before January 31, so that broad agreement may be reached on long-term objectives.

The report proposes for consideration several national priorities, which would cost about £640m (at 1976 prices) to implement over the next decade. That is well under half the total estimated in the report as required to carry out all necessary improvements, but more than double the present level of government spending.

The report makes no comment on whether that level of spending would be approved by the Government. Mrs. Williams simply talks in terms of needing "to concentrate a greater part of our resources for a number of years to help in a major way, perhaps no more than one school in ten, chosen

for the area it serves and its condition, with only very modest resources, for the remaining schools".

The report is based on two sample surveys in 1975 and 1976 of schools in England and Wales. It was found that more than half the 23,000 primary schools and two fifths of the 5,000 secondary schools were built before 1945, and that a fifth of all primary places were built before 1903.

Two fifths of primary schools and half of secondary schools are considered overcrowded, and a half of those are badly overcrowded. A tenth of the nine million schoolchildren are in temporary buildings, most without basic services. Staff space is inadequate in three quarters of all schools. About a quarter of schools still have outdoor lavatories.

Nearly a fifth of the 12,500 pre-1945 primary schools are in poor environments, the report says. They include areas seriously affected by noise and fumes, a quarter have grossly inadequate sites "amounting to less than three quarters of the statutory minimum".

Nine out of ten secondary schools lack proper accommodation in some areas, and workshops. "The deficiencies in practical accommodation, damaging in any circumstances, may critically inhibit progress in the comprehensive reorganization in some areas, and may also limit that part of the curriculum which has particular technical and industrial relevance", the report says.

About a quarter of state secondary schools are not yet comprehensive, almost all of which date from before 1946. To bring them up to the standards of a post-war school would require £30m, the report estimates. To provide adequate staff and pupil space for the

school rolls in 1986 would require an additional £40m.

That makes a total of £70m which would be required for basic improvements in order to complete comprehensive reorganization by 1986. That sum is in addition to the £32m already in the Government's special programme to assist reorganization, but does not take into account the £17m that is to be earmarked for reorganization in the coming financial year.

One of the main objectives proposed in the report for the renewal of school buildings over the next decade is that sufficient assistance must be given to enable secondary reorganization to be completed.

The report also suggests that as a matter of national priority, resources available for school building should be concentrated to a large extent on remedying the most urgent deficiencies in existing schools, and on a vision in the most disadvantaged areas. That might mean that most of the money would be spent on no more than 10-15 per cent of schools.

Much of the overcrowding should be expanded in areas of special social need to enable the full-time attendance of all rising-fives, and all children aged three and four on demand, the report says. The total, it estimates, is 50 per cent of four-year-olds and 50 per cent of three-year-olds. Elsewhere the numbers of pupils under five would be held constant.

Much of the overcrowding will be relieved by the fall in the number of children in schools. Primary school numbers have been falling since 1973 and will continue to do so until 1986. Secondary numbers are expected to reach a peak of about 4,100,000 in 1979 and then drop to about 2,800,000 in 1992.

Study of School Buildings (Stationery Office, £5.50).

## Council determination to keep within guideline

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Local government is determined to keep within the Government's 10 per cent guideline on earnings, Mr. Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said last night. Speaking after seminars on pay policy organized by the association, he said: "We do not feel that there can be any special cases."

The Government's rate support grant settlement for 1978-79, which allowed for an overall rate of inflation of 9 per cent, had set cash limits on council spending that "ensure that the full cost of settlements with which the Government allows to settle will fall on local authorities".

Yesterday's meeting, for London local authorities, was the sixth in a series that also covered Tyneside, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Midlands.

Local government has agreed on a 10 per cent increase for the police with a pay review to come, is grappling with the firemen's strike and has reached a crucial stage in negotiations with its million manual workers. Local government negotiators have told their brethren that while a 10 per cent pay increase is all they can offer now they are prepared to talk about a pay formula for the future.

The association has made clear that if the Government allows a special case it will have to pay its share of the cost.

Dr. Barry Peatfield, aged 41, of Fockley Lane, Purley, Surrey, was found guilty yesterday for the second time in a year of serious professional misconduct. His practice is in Croydon.

The Disciplinary Committee of the General Medical Council, sitting in London, suspended judgement for a year on a charge of his having signed blank prescriptions for a second year on charges of improper

## Whitley Council's meeting is first since 1950

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

The Civil Service National Whitley Council, the supreme body in the service's bargaining structure, is to meet for the first time since 1950, in a formal request from the unions.

The staff side, comprising nine unions, will protest at not having the pay research system operating for the April wage settlement next year. Agreement has been reached for its restoration for the 1979 award.

The unions want the meeting on December 1 but it is not yet clear whether the permanent secretaries of the main bodies brought together in time. The work of the Whitley Council is usually conducted by government departments can

## Doctor found guilty of signing blank prescription forms

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Dr. Barry Peatfield, aged 41, of Fockley Lane, Purley, Surrey, was found guilty yesterday for the second time in a year of serious professional misconduct. His practice is in Croydon.

The Disciplinary Committee of the General Medical Council, sitting in London, suspended judgement for a year on a charge of his having signed blank prescriptions for a second year on charges of improper

associations with two married women patients. He has the right of appeal.

Earlier, 45 patients, mostly women, went to the hearing waving placards in support of their doctor. They promised to return next year to help his fight to save his practice.

As he left, Dr. Peatfield said his patients had given almost £1,000 towards his lawyer's bills.

A year ago Dr. Peatfield was found guilty of an improper association with Mrs. Jenny Tan-

## Lord Rosslyn found shot dead

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Lord Rosslyn, aged 60, the sixth earl, was found dead from gunshot wounds in woods near his home at Sharnock Row, near Reading, Berkshire, yesterday.

He had been reported missing by his doctor the previous afternoon. Thames Valley police said that they do not suspect a crime but the coroner had been informed. *Obituary, page 21*

## WEST EUROPE

## France demands a larger share of EEC regional fund

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov. 22

France issued a warning here today that it might block the renewal next year of the EEC's regional fund, which is used to promote the development of the Community's backward areas, unless its share of the fund's resources was increased.

Britain, Ireland and Italy countered by insisting that they should retain their present shares, which would be impossible if French wishes were met. Unable to resolve the dispute, EEC foreign ministers referred the matter to the EEC summit meeting on December 5 and 6.

Dr. David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, told journalists that there was a danger the French might try to link the regional fund issue with a separate dispute over the size of British contributions to the EEC budget over the next two years. A tentative compromise was reached on this last night and also sent to heads of government for a final decision.

The European Commission, backed by the European Parliament, has proposed allocating about £490m to the regional fund in 1978. This would be not far short of the

total of £542m made available to the fund over the entire first three years of its existence.

Britain, Ireland and Italy support this big increase in the fund's resources, but other members would generally like to hold expenditure on the fund to current levels. The British regard the fund as one of the main achievements of their renegotiation of EEC membership.

The French are demanding that their share of the fund's resources should be raised from 15 per cent to 21 per cent to provide more assistance to their dependent overseas territories. Present shares of the fund are as follows: Italy 40 per cent; Britain 28 per cent; France 15 per cent; West Germany 6.4 per cent; Ireland 6 per cent; Holland 1.7 per cent; Belgium 1.5 per cent; Denmark 1.3 per cent and Luxembourg 0.1 per cent.

There is further dispute over the Commission's proposal that a portion of the fund's resources should be outside the national quota system. The idea is that this quota-free part could be disbursed by the Commission as it saw fit, thus introducing a supranational element into the management of members' regional development policies. This prospect alarms many of the Nine.

An interim report on the investigations suggested that the objects had been smuggled in bit by bit. It threw suspicion on the terrorists' defence lawyers and said it had been particularly difficult to conduct thorough body searches of the women lawyers.

The last pistol, a Colt .38 detective special, was found in a hiding place in an unoccupied cell on the seventh floor. The last occupant, Herr Helmut Pohl, had been moved out on August 12.

Herr Joerg Lang, a lawyer and one of the 16 people wanted by the police in connection with the terrorism, has written a letter to the West German news agency denying that he had any part in them. The police regard the letter as genuine.

Mr. Lang, a former associate of Herr Klaus Croissant, the Baader-Meinhof defence lawyer extradited from Paris last week, went underground five years ago.

At his last postmarked in Rome on November 16, he said he had joined "a national liberation movement outside Europe", and neither he nor the movement had anything to do with the recent crimes in West Germany.

## Plan to wrap up Reichstag scrapped to avoid dispute

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov. 22

Plans by Christo, the Bulgarian-American artist, to wrap the Berlin Reichstag in 150,000 square feet of white fabric, are doomed to remain on the drawing board, Herr Karl Carstens, the President of the West German Bundestag, who administers the building, says.

His reasons are much the same as those which inspired Christo: the rebuilt Reichstag is at once a symbol of hope for German reunification and of the parliamentary democracy, in a city where East and West confront each other. The project would undoubtedly cause a big stir.

Christo, who has made a name for himself by wrapping

objects, buildings and even long stretches of landscape in various materials, presented his project to Herr Carstens and other German politicians earlier this year.

Herr Carstens said later he had been impressed by the project and thought it would have a great artistic effect. But as the Reichstag was a symbol of German unity, the plan would "certainly arouse controversy and probably start a fierce row".

A model and illustrations of the project are on show at the Bundestag building in Bonn. Christo is said to be still hoping to win through. "He hopes in vain," a Bundestag spokeswoman said today. "Herr Carstens is not going to change his mind."

## Madeira crash crew '14 hours on duty'

Lisbon, Nov. 22.—The crew of the Portuguese airliner that crashed in Madeira, on Saturday night, killing 130 people, had worked 14 consecutive hours, the Portuguese Press Union announced today.

In a statement the union said the airport on the island had special characteristics "that diminish the safety margin in case of mechanical or human failure".

The TAP Boeing 727 is believed to have landed halfway along the runway, plunged into the sea at the end—Agence France-Press.

## Thatcher visit to Brussels

Mrs Thatcher will visit the Brussels headquarters of both Nato and the European Commission on Thursday and Friday next week.

She will meet among others General Hall, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Dr. Luns, Nato Secretary-General, Mr. Simonet, Belgian Foreign Minister, and Mr. Jenkins, President of the Commission.

## Friendship treaty signed by Madrid and Lisbon

Madrid, Nov. 22.—Spain and Portugal signed a friendship and cooperation treaty today establishing a Madrid-Lisbon basis for the defence of democracy in the Iberian peninsula.

The new treaty revives joint military manoeuvres between the Portuguese and Spanish armed forces, which were suspended when the April, 1974, coup ended nearly 50 years of right-wing dictatorship in Portugal.—Reuters.

## Air strike continues

Tokyo, Nov. 22.—Almost 10,000 passengers were affected when many Japan Air Lines flight deck and cabin crew members went on strike for a second day to back demands for increases of up to 75 per cent in end-of-year bonuses.

## M Barre to tackle issue of lower paid workers

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Nov. 22

A survey of the French wage structure drawn up at the request of M. Barre, the Prime Minister, was published today. The figures relate to last year, but even so it is the most up-to-date comprehensive document of its kind produced by the Centre d'Etudes des revenus et des coûts.

The report shows that in 1976 a third of all workers earned less than 2,000 francs (£220) a month and that 56 per cent earned between the minimum basic wage level, which is adjusted against the cost of living, and 2,500 francs.

Agricultural workers tended to be at the bottom of the scale with an average wage of 2,180 francs compared to the average 2,200 francs paid to manual workers in industry. Foremen's average pay was 3,800 francs and the white collar professional scales ranged from 4,100 to 8,400 francs. The average Civil Service pay was 3,120 francs.

M. Barre is to raise the matter of wages at tomorrow's meeting of the Cabinet, which is to set out the Government's policy on wages for next year. Politically

## Another pistol found in cell at Stammheim

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov. 22

A pistol and a "sizeable quantity" of ammunition have been found hidden in the wall of a cell formerly occupied by a terrorist at Stammheim high security jail near Stuttgart, the Baden-Württemberg Justice Ministry said today.

The pistol was the third to have been found in Stammheim, despite thorough searches of the terrorist's lawyers and visitors. The other two were used by two leaders of the Baader-Meinhof group, Andreas Baader and Jan-Carl Raspe, to commit suicide on October 18.

The subsequent search of the terrorists' cells in the fourth floor of the prison has yielded two caches of explosive, a transistor radio, a communications network by which they could contact each other in defiance of temporary isolation measures, explosives, laser-reflecting blades and other objects. The hiding places were so cunningly devised that the investigators had to tear down the walls to find them.

An interim report on the investigations suggested that the objects had been smuggled in bit by bit. It threw suspicion on the terrorists' defence lawyers and said it had been particularly difficult to conduct thorough body searches of the women lawyers.

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## French warned of danger from oysters

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov. 22

Warning about bacterial pollution in oysters has come from the consumers' organisation, Union Federale des Consommateurs, as France prepares for its annual oyster oyster at the end of the year.

According to the UFC, out of 25 batches bought at random in Paris and 12 at Rennes 60 per cent of the oysters were below the health standards set by the Pasteur Institute at Lille.

For worried oyster eaters the UFC gives two tests to tell whether anything is wrong once the shell is opened. First, the weight of the flesh and the weight of the water inside should be equal. Second, because the oyster ought to be still alive, it should contract slightly in reaction when lemon juice is squeezed on it.

## Spanish parties agree on monarchy

From William Chislett  
Madrid, Nov. 22

Spain will be a "parliamentary monarchy" according to the first draft of the new constitution which is being drawn up to replace General Franco's fundamental laws.

The monthly magazine *Comunidad para el Dialogo* is to publish the draft later this week. It was finished last week after three months of discussions between representatives of the main political parties.

It had been thought that the term "monarchy" might not appear in the first draft in deference to the republicans. The political leaders have cooperated remarkably well over the first draft and can be expected to reveal their differences when work on the second draft begins.

The issue of monarchy or republic is not as sensitive as some make it out to be. The Socialists and Communists are traditionally republican but, as their leaders have said, the issue at the moment is the consolidation of democracy.

King Juan Carlos, who today celebrated the second anniversary of his ascent to the throne, does not apparently view the issue with alarm. He would be quite content if the word "monarchy" was left out of the final draft of the constitution if this meant avoiding a political dispute.

Another contentious issue is that of a state religion. Article three of the first draft, according to the magazine, says that Spain will be declared a non-confessional state.

The Archbishop of Madrid, Cardinal Enrique y Tarancón,

made an appeal on the first day of the episcopal assembly yesterday for the state not to ignore the Roman Catholic Church in the new constitution.

He said that the state could not turn its back on the social reality of the country in which many people belong to the Catholic Church.

The Government is expected to convene trade union elections at its Cabinet meeting tomorrow. The issue is likely to lead to a heated debate between the government and the trade unions. The Government does not intend to call the trade union elections for a certain date before the year.

All this is interpreted by the left as an attempt to minimize their importance for as long as possible as the ending Democratic Centre Union is poorly represented in the unions.

## Warning about 'explosive stage' in technology

By Simon Midgley  
Of The Times  
Higher Education Supplement

A warning that the advance technology in the mid-1970s may have reached an explosive stage was given yesterday by Sir Ieuan Maddock, formerly Chief Scientist in the Department of Industry and the new secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

He was delivering the inaugural Imperial College Jubilee Lecture, the first of an annual series created to celebrate the Queen's silver jubilee.

It was as an explosion that he saw the present growth of technology. "Explosions have the characteristic that they become uncontrolled and ultimately become violent; they catastrophically change their environment; they are irrever-

sible; and they blow themselves out," he said.

"I see many signs that the mid-1970s' advance of technology has reached this explosive stage. It is certainly difficult now to control the expansion of technology even if the most determined efforts are made to contain it."

Even though armaments had reached the point where whole nations could be obliterated in a few hours the pressure to

develop better weapons was stronger than the logic to call a halt.

Any thought of reversing the trend towards bigger and better technology seemed ludicrously optimistic given daily demands for more industrial expansion, modernization, computerization and increased productivity.

There were many signs of the exhaustion of the technological explosion, one of which was rapidly diminishing resources.

## Lord Rosslyn found shot dead

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Lord Rosslyn, aged 60, the sixth earl, was found dead from gunshot wounds in woods near his home at Sharnock Row, near Reading, Berkshire, yesterday.

He had been reported missing by his doctor the previous afternoon. Thames Valley police said that they do not suspect a crime but the coroner had been informed. *Obituary, page 21*

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## OVERSEAS

## EEC hails Egyptian President's 'courageous initiative' and looks for response from Mr Begin

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov 22

The governments of the EEC today jointly urged all countries in the Middle East to follow up the "unprecedented dialogue" begun in Jerusalem by President Sadat and Mr Begin with "comprehensive negotiations leading to a just and lasting overall settlement taking into account the rights and concerns of all the interested parties."

In a statement issued here by EEC foreign ministers, the Nine declared that it was "urgent that genuine peace at last be achieved for all the peoples of the area, including the Palestinian people, on the basis of the principles recognized by the international community, which are embodied in particular in the declaration of the European Council (EEC summit) of 29 June 1977."

The June declaration recognized among other things the Palestinians' "need for homeland" as an indispensable element in any lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. Today's statement reinforces that declaration but does not make any new concessions. It demands that the EEC should concede the Palestinians' right to an independent state in the territory now occupied by Israel.

Stating their "conviction that mutual trust constitutes one of the main obstacles to a peaceful settlement", the foreign ministers said they shared "the hope expressed by the courageous initiative of President Sadat and his historic meeting

with the Israeli leaders". They also hoped that the Geneva conference could be reconvened in the near future.

Speaking to journalists, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said that the main achievement of the Sadat peace mission had been to "break the barrier of mistrust" and "make what was previously inconceivable conceivable" for both Arabs and Israelis.

Dr Owen emphasized that the EEC was interested in promoting an overall Middle East settlement and not just a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel. He said there was a general feeling among the Nine that the "imaginative gesture" had come from President Sadat and that the onus was now on Mr Begin to respond.

It was implicitly recognized in today's declaration, Dr Owen said, that a means must be found of ensuring that "the Palestinian people's voice is heard" but there was no agreement yet among the Nine on the most appropriate way for them to be represented.

Dr Owen and most other foreign ministers would have preferred to have issued a statement of support for the Sadat mission at the end of last week before the Egyptian President arrived in Israel. But this was blocked by the French, who argued that to have done so might have made Mr Sadat's task more difficult.

In a separate statement, the foreign ministers declared that, as previously in the case of Transkei, they had no intention

of granting diplomatic recognition to the Bantustan of Bophuthatswana which is due to be given its "independence" by the South African Government on December 6.

The creation of Bantustans, the statement said, was "an integral part of the policy of apartheid, which the Nine have condemned on many occasions."

The foreign ministers agreed to continue to study the possibility of a ban on new investment in South Africa, curbs on export credit guarantees and other measures in the trade and cultural fields. But there was a general agreement that there was no need for the moment to go beyond the United Nations arms embargo and the code of conduct adopted by the EEC earlier this year for European companies operating in South Africa.

Dr Owen said afterwards that the EEC would look at the situation again in the new year. The Nine apparently hope that, with the forthcoming general elections behind him, Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, may feel sufficiently confident to rescind some of his Government's recent repressive measures.

During a discussion on the progress of the Belgrade follow-up to the Helsinki conference, Dr Owen gave a warning against making over-ambitious claims for its achievements. It should be regarded as a useful statement of positions rather than a dialogue.

## Poles urged to erase fears of one Germany

Warsaw, Nov 22—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today called on Poles to show understanding for his country's desire for German unity.

Addressing the Polish Academy of Sciences here he reminded his listeners that it was Polish patriotism that had defended their own country against partition and loss of sovereignty.

He urged Poles to appreciate "that the Federal Republic of Germany is striving for a peaceful situation in Europe which could enable the achievement of state unity of the Germans in free self-determination, although you as Poles might fear this possibility."

Commentators said it was significant that a West German Chancellor could make such a plea in a country which lost an estimated six million dead under Nazi occupation in the Second World War.

Earlier today Herr Schmidt, who arrived last night for the first official visit by a West German Chancellor since the countries resumed relations in 1972, opened formal talks with Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader.

In his address to the academy, devoted to West Germany's détente policy, Herr Schmidt said that he had been left in the hands of the great powers alone.

It was in the interest of the small and medium-sized powers to make their own contribution to détente, and not just look over the Atlantic or the Urals.

In a reference to the East-West troop reduction talks in Vienna, Herr Schmidt restated the Western position that NATO and the Warsaw Pact should have equal troop levels, and that agreed ceilings should be collective for each block.

The Warsaw Pact would like national ceilings, enabling the state of West German forces to be limited. The Chancellor called for new impulses for the slow-moving Vienna talks but gave no details of West Germany's secret initiative aimed at breaking the deadlock.

Herr Schmidt told his listeners that neither West Germany nor Poland had been immune to the "virus" of nationalism, but conceded that memories of Hitler could not be cancelled with the stroke of a pen.

Herr Billig, the official Bonn spokesman, said Herr Schmidt and Mr Gierek had discussed their countries' relations not as diplomats but in a friendly way and he spoke of growing confidence between the two men. Mr Gierek visited Bonn in June, 1976.

Herr Schmidt is seen in Poland as having largely inherited



The old town of Warsaw brought out Herr Schmidt's camera when the Chancellor spent the morning sightseeing.

## Argentina given list of thousands missing

From Andrew Tarnowski  
Buenos Aires, Nov 22

Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, has presented the Argentine Government with a list of 7,500 names of people said to have disappeared here or to have been arrested without legal process for political reasons it was reported here today.

Mr Vance flew on to Brazil today after talks with Argentine leaders yesterday, mainly concerned with human rights and Argentina's nuclear development programme.

The names that Mr Vance delivered were compiled from several lists drawn up by groups like the United States Council of Churches and the Washington Office on Latin America. Mr Vance asked the Argentine Government for information on these cases.

A United States official said they included "just about everyone to whom anything is ever believed to have happened in Argentina". There was considerable duplication, and out of 7,500 names perhaps half that number were persons really involved. "Maybe some of these

died five years ago", the official added.

A joint statement issued after Mr Vance's talks noted the responsibility of governments to strengthen human rights, and United States officials said Mr Vance had found the Argentine Government's attitude on this problem had improved.

"One can definitely say the Government's reaction to our approaches on human rights is certainly improving. Before, they stonewalled and cold-shouldered us on the subject. Now they are responding much more positively," a spokesman said.

"There may be just as many people disappearing as ever, but the Government's official attitude in dealing with us makes it easier to talk," he added.

On nuclear development, Mr Vance won a firm Argentine commitment to ratify the treaty of Tlatelolco declaring Latin America a zone free of nuclear weapons. In return, the United States promised to supply enriched uranium for a nuclear plant that Argentina is exporting to Peru, and to study other possibilities for providing the nuclear technology needed here.

## Protest at Strauss line on Chile

A storm of protest has arisen here over a declaration by Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the right-wing Christian Social Union leader, that the Chilean Government's reputation abroad was the result of an international campaign of lies and slander.

Herr Strauss, speaking to miners at Rancagua during his current visit to Chile, said: "We are not afraid of manipulated public opinion". World history had rarely known a lie so great as those told about Chile.

Chile, he said, had been saved from becoming a bridgehead for the Communist conquest of South America. He realized what a heavy burden the Government had to bear and what complete faith in its promise to restore democracy.

## Churchmen object to arms deal

By Peter Stafford  
Plans to sell British military equipment to El Salvador have brought a protest from the Roman Catholic bishops' Commission for International Justice and Peace.

In a letter to Mr Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, the commission refers to reports of repression by the military Government of El Salvador, and says the equipment, which includes light armoured vehicles, could be used for internal repression. It calls for a halt to the deal worth £850,000.

The violent nature of the El Salvador regime was described in a report published in London earlier this year.

## China waits to see who wins

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Nov 21

China's reaction to President Sadat's visit to Israel will depend on its degree of success.

If the visit contributes to a Middle East peace and wins the support of the majority of Arabs, Peking will cautiously welcome it. If it splits the Arab world still further and does not promote peace, Peking will make no comment. If it results in the unseating of President Sadat, Peking will renege on its promise.

China is a prisoner of circumstance in the Middle East. Its contribution to decision-making in that part of the world is virtually nil. Its only interest is in being seen to support whichever party wins in the end. China refuses to have diplomatic relations with Israel for fear of offending the much more numerous Arabs. But it does not like seeing the Western world brought to its knees economically by oil crises, at a time when only Nato can restrain Soviet ambitions in Europe and elsewhere.

China's own growing oil industry is not yet a serious factor in the Middle East issue. China will continue to use its oil production of less than 90 million tons a year mainly for domestic purposes, and sell whatever surplus it can afford to Japan, Hong Kong and a few other places. It will not be a credible alternative to the Middle East as an oil supplier for years and perhaps decades to come, if ever.

Peking's principal aim in the Middle East is to see the Soviet Union's influence there diminished. It was delighted by the expulsion of the Russians from Somalia. But in all difficult and contentious questions Peking will simply keep a low profile and support what seems to be the majority of influential Arab opinion.

## France stays silent on Sadat journey

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 22

The French Government has been silent on President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. This has contrasted with the emotional tone of the French press, and the widespread feeling of French public opinion that it was a genuinely historic event.

The only official comment, made by M Barre, the Prime Minister, in a television discussion Sunday, revealed a strong dose of scepticism.

"The French Government," M Barre said, "hopes that this gesture will be a step towards peace. But whatever the symbolic character of gestures, and the importance of the event, there will be real and lasting settlement in the Middle East only if fundamental problems are dealt with." He added:

"Let us wait and see what are the consequences of this symbolic gesture."

He justified the initial French refusal to approve a draft declaration of the Nine congratulating President Sadat on his courageous and constructive initiative. He said that endorsement of this declaration had been requested on Friday afternoon for Saturday morning, and that it was "premature" in any case.

"French objections were withdrawn when the Council of Ministers had the opportunity this morning to discuss and approve a draft statement proposed by France and Germany, which laid emphasis on the need for a global settlement, taking into account the interests of all the parties concerned, and the rights of the Palestinians to a homeland."

Mr Josiah Chingamano, acting president of the African National Council—Zimbabwe, the front's political wing, said at a press conference that the British Government, press and secret service were trying to drive a wedge between Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leaders of the front.

He showed a document he said was produced by British intelligence and intended to cause a split in the Patriotic Front. The paper purported to set out Mr Nkomo's plans for a military takeover, excluding Mr Mugabe, in the transitional period before independence.

Another ANC-Z official said a white supporter of the organization had recently confronted Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, with evidence to sup-

port the charge. Dr Owen had said he had instructed M15 not to divide the Patriotic Front. "That speaks for itself", the official said.

Mr Chingamano said Britain and the West wished to see Mr Mugabe excluded from a majority rule settlement because they believe him to be sympathetic to communism.—UPI.

Lusaka, Nov 22—President Kaunda of Zambia is believed to be preparing a Note to Britain and the United States setting out his position on their Rhodesia settlement plan, diplomatic sources said. Dr Kaunda's had secret talks with President Nyerere of Tanzania last weekend in an attempt to produce a united position in the plan among the five African "frontline" states. But the sources said, the meeting and inconclusively. Disagreement is believed to centre on provision for pre-independence elections.—Reuters.

## Britain accused of trying to split Patriotic Front

Salisbury, Nov 22—A black nationalist leader today accused Britain of trying to split the Patriotic Front alliance.

Mr Josiah Chingamano, acting president of the African National Council—Zimbabwe, the front's political wing, said at a press conference that the British Government, press and secret service were trying to drive a wedge between Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leaders of the front.

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## Somalia rescue by British army helicopter

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Nov 22

Two British Army scout helicopters, which were on a training exercise at a Kenyan military base, flew 400 miles today to rescue 45 people, mostly Britons, marooned on a hilltop by floods about 60 miles from Kisumu, in southern Somalia.

The Britons were working on a new sugar project which Bookers International, a British group, are developing for the Somali Government. They fled to high ground when the Juba river burst its banks, flooding a wide area.

Reports here said the stranded group had no food and the rescue operation had to be organized quickly. The Kenya Government gave immediate permission for the flight from Nairobi to Somalia, which also involved the flying of fuel supplies for the helicopters to two points on their route.

## Fifty missing in new cyclone

Delhi, Nov 22—Fifty people were reported missing today when a new cyclone hit India's west coast. Between Calicut and Goa cyclonic winds sank and damaged many boats.

In the Bay of Bengal, rescue workers struggled to provide food, water and shelter for 200,000 homeless and to dispose of thousands of bodies posing health hazards after the even more deadly cyclone at the weekend.—Agence France-Press.

## Aeroflot cancels supersonic flight

Moscow, Nov 22—For the successive week, Aeroflot airlines cancelled the scheduled flight of its Tu144 supersonic passenger airliner. There have been no flights on the Moscow to Alma Ata route since passenger service opened on November 2. Weather conditions at Alma Ata, 2,000 miles to the south, were blamed for today's cancellation.—UPI.

## Route over Russia would help Concorde pay its way

Continued from page 1

his Breugnot N19 aircraft, "Point d'Interrogation" on the first non-stop flight between Paris and New York 18 hours and took 37 hours 18 minutes on September 12, 1970. Today's flight was to last just 3 hours 30 minutes, and the slightly late departure time— from now on Concorde is to leave Paris daily at 11 am—was to help synchronize its arrival at New York with the British flight.

Before takeoff, M Caville said the journey was the outcome of a long political, technical and legal battle. "We now look towards the future now that London and Paris are only a few hours from New York," he said. "This will be good for contacts and exchanges and for improving the traditional links of friendship between the three countries."

M Caville says in an interview with *Quotidien de Paris* today that he hopes Air France's four Concorde will be paying their running costs by 1980. This break-even point is, however, still some way off and will depend on how successful the company is in its attempt to open up a Concorde route across the Soviet Union to Japan and on extending its South American route to Buenos Aires.

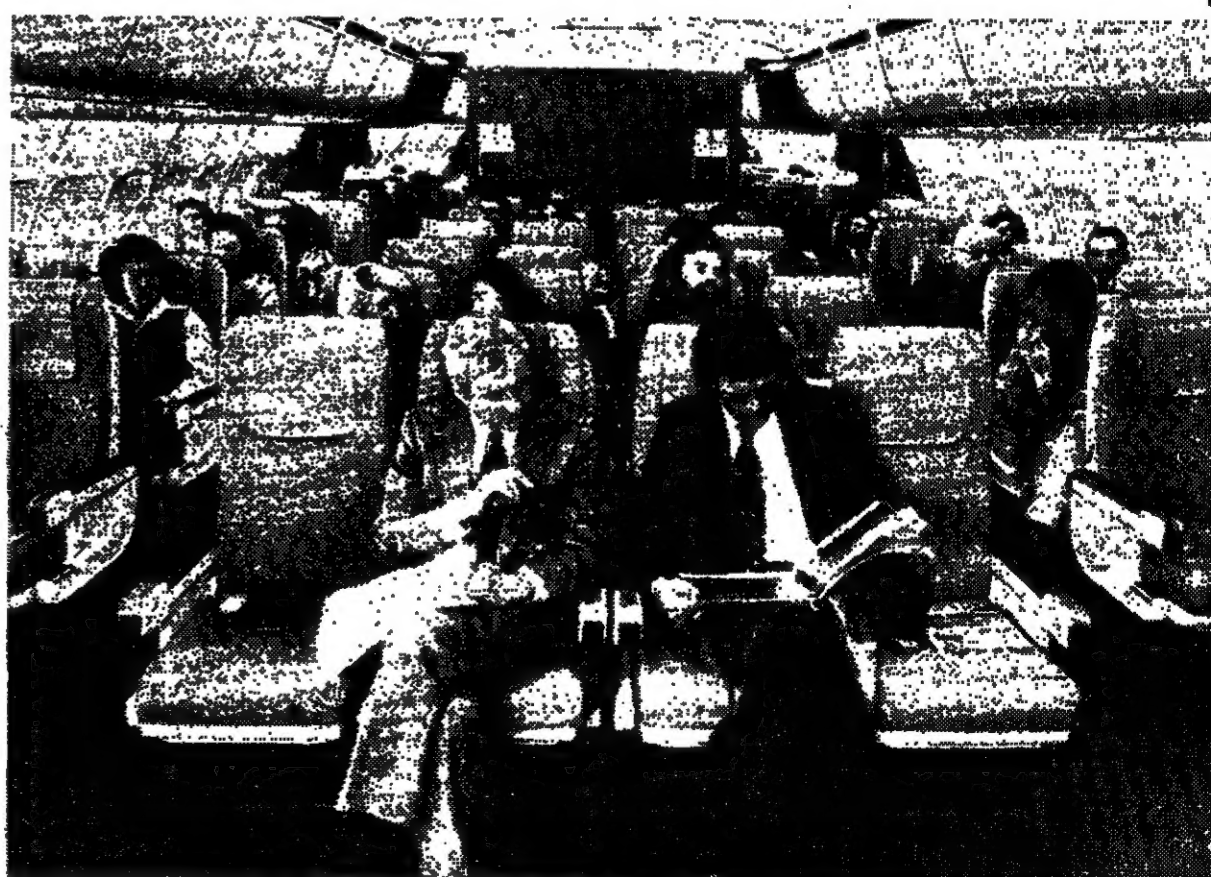
The minimum required flying time for each aircraft in order to pay its way is 2,750 hours a year, or seven hours 32 minutes

a day. In 1977 the average will be just 1,027 hours or 2 hours 48 minutes a day. Even with the daily flights to New York and twice daily flights planned from the middle of next year—the figures will rise to only 1,648 hours, that is four 31 minutes a day, next year.

The extra thousand plus hours flying time per aircraft will be hard to win. The Soviet Union has gone no further than to indicate that it might be prepared to allow Concorde to land in Moscow if its Tu144 supersonic liner were allowed to land in Paris.

There is no sign that the Russians would be prepared to let Concorde skip Moscow and fly on to Novosibirsk, the stop it would have to make in order to reach Tokyo. Should this difficult diplomatic hurdle be overcome, Air France will still have the problem of landing at Tokyo, where the new airport is under permanent occupation by ecologists.

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#### ADVERTISEMENT

## FIRE BRIGADES UNION

# Why Firemen are on strike

THE national strike of Firemen is the first in the union's history.

WHY did they strike and why is the strike so solid?

Gross pay of a Recruit Fireman is £52.53 per week.

For a Qualified Fireman after four years' training and experience it is £65.70 per week. This for a married man with two young children, means, after tax and pension deductions, a take home pay of £46.71.

There are no additional allowances on top of pay.

Time after time since 1961 the Fire Service has suffered badly because of last minute intervention caused by governmental pay policies. Arising from the Cunningham Inquiry in 1971, a Qualified Fireman was placed on a rate of pay which was £2.58 above average male earnings. Today, his weekly pay is £12.90 below average earnings: a total worsening in his comparative pay position of £15.48 per week.

The Government insists that any increase for Firemen from November 7, 1977, must be within their 10 per cent guideline and that any further pay increase coming from the National Joint Council negotiations on a pay formula would have to be considered in the circumstances prevailing at the time.

A working group of the N.J.C. under the independent chairmanship of Lord McCarthy finalised a series of job-evaluation exercises by recommending that the value of a Fireman's job should be compared with the generality of jobs in the Community.

Based on this recommendation, the pay formula sought by the union is:

To set a Qualified Fireman's annual salary on a formula based on average male weekly earnings. The Government's guidelines of 10 per cent would not even half bridge the gap between Firemen's pay and average male earnings.

This is why Firemen are solidly saying **MORE MONEY NOW**. Express your support by writing to your Member of Parliament.

**FIREMEN BELIEVE THIS CLAIM TO BE FULLY JUSTIFIED. THEY HOPE THE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS WILL RECOGNISE THE JUSTICE OF THE CLAIM.**

The Government's offer of reduced hours in the autumn of 1978 and the recruiting of the necessary additional men is a totally separate issue and in any case the move to the 42-hour week is long overdue.

Issued by the National Officer, Fire Brigades Union

## OVERSEAS

# Doctor who examined Steve Biko admits in Pretoria court: 'It's obvious we missed something'

From Marcel Berlins  
Pretoria, Nov 22

Dr Ivor Lang, one of the doctors who examined Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, shortly before his death in prison, admitted in court today: "It's obvious we missed something."

Dr Lang, District Surgeon of Port Elizabeth, said that he had been very surprised to hear of Mr Biko's death, and "absolutely shocked". He was being cross-examined by Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for the Biko family, on the seventh day of the inquest into Mr Biko's death on September 12, a week after being detained by the police.

Dr Lang was shown photographs of Mr Biko's face taken after his death, showing a very prominent scab. According to medical evidence, the wound was between four and eight days old.

Dr Lang admitted that he had not seen the wound, despite having seen Mr Biko four days in succession from September 7 to 10, and having examined him "carefully", including his head.

Dr Lang said that if Mr Biko had been an ordinary patient, it would have been sent over 700 miles for treatment (to Pretoria). It had worried him but he could do nothing about it as it had been a decision of Colonel Goosen of the security branch.

"I am a general practitioner. I have my limits and I know my limitations. I have been permitted to have transferred him to the care of specialists with more knowledge than I have."

He agreed that it was the only time in his career as District Surgeon that he had allowed his medical advice to be overruled by the authorities.

Mr Kentridge suggested to Dr Lang that if he had been faced with anyone but the special branch he would have insisted that Mr Biko went to hospital. "I would have dealt with him just like any other patient," Dr Lang replied.

Mr R. P. Van Rooyen, counsel for the police, cross-examined Dr Lang at length about the occasions he had come into contact with Colonel Goosen, the district security police chief, in the period September 7 to 10, the seven days of which Dr Lang had seen Mr Biko.

During Monday's hearing Dr Lang had told the court that he had written out a "highly incorrect" medical certificate at the request of Colonel Goosen, saying he could find no evidence of abnormality or pathology on Mr Biko, when in fact he had noticed a number of such abnormalities.

He had also said that Colonel Goosen had refused his medical advice to allow Mr Biko to be taken to a local hospital, because he was a security risk. Instead, he was driven 750 miles by Land-Rover to Pretoria, where he died.

Mr Van Rooyen's cross-examination was aimed mainly at trying to establish that Colonel Goosen had shown proper concern for Mr Biko's health, and that if he had not taken Mr Biko's symptoms as seriously as he should have, the fault lay with the doctors, who had themselves been able to find little wrong with him in the four-day period from September 7.

Dr Lang accepted that Colonel Goosen could have been under the impression that three doctors who had examined Mr Biko thought that he was shamming. Discussions between himself and Dr C. Hersch, a specialist physician, on the possibility that Mr Biko was shamming had taken place in the presence of Colonel Goosen.

Dr Lang accepted that apart from the existence of one indication to the contrary (an exten-

sor plantar reflex of the left foot when the toe turns up instead of down after the sole of the foot is scratched) he was also of the view that Mr Biko was malingering.

Mr Van Rooyen argued that at no stage on September 7, 8 or 9 had there been any suggestion made to Colonel Goosen by any of the doctors who examined Mr Biko that there was anything organically wrong with him. Therefore, any discussion on Mr Biko's possible removal to hospital could have been only for diagnostic, not treatment purposes.

If Colonel Goosen believed that Mr Biko was malingering, he would have found confirmation of it in the failure of the doctors to find anything wrong, Mr Van Rooyen suggested.

Dr Benjamin Tucker, the Chief District Surgeon of Port Elizabeth, said in evidence that he had examined Mr Biko on September 8, at Dr Lang's request.

Mr Biko was rational but answered questions in an indirect manner, Dr Tucker said in his affidavit, which he read to the court. He thought this might have been due to a swelling of his upper lip.

Mr Biko had complained that he could not move his left limbs properly. He managed to stand up with assistance, though with difficulty in using his left leg.

On September 11, Dr Tucker saw Mr Biko again. He was apathetic, uncooperative and hyperventilating. Fine froth was present about his lips. He thought it in Mr Biko's best interests for him to be admitted to hospital where he would be observed by trained staff.

Subsequently, Colonel Goosen had advised him that Mr Biko was to be taken to the prison hospital in Pretoria.

Dr Tucker said that Mr Biko had not complained to him of being assaulted or injured while in detention. (Dr Lang had previously made a similar statement.)

Steve Biko's quest, page 20

## Anger over Kruger remark about Jews

From Ray Kennedy,  
Johannesburg, Nov 22

Mr James Kruger, the South African Minister of Justice, on whose orders Mr Steve Biko, the black activist, was detained, was today in the centre of a dispute over disparaging remarks he is said to have made over English-speaking South Africans and Jews.

According to *The Star*, the Johannesburg newspaper, Mr Kruger has said that he will only accept English-speaking South Africans as "part of my country" when they identify totally with Afrikanerdom.

Of the Jewish population, which is a significant sector of South Africa's white population and largely anti-Government, Mr Kruger is alleged to have said it was a characteristic of the Jewish people living outside

Johannesburg that they "run away from other places and the whole kaput".

The inference, in the newspaper report, was that Mr Kruger was referring to the growing migration of skilled whites, many of them doctors, since unrest erupted in Soweto 18 months ago. Medicine is a largely Jewish-dominated profession in South Africa.

These tree-trunks, rammed into the river bank in about 425 BC, carried the strategic bridge across the Strymon for many centuries. The river is in the background.

## Famous 2,400-year-old Greek bridge located

From Mario Modiano  
Amphipolis, Nov 22

An elaborate wooden structure that once supported the classical bridge over the river Strymon at Amphipolis has been discovered by a Greek archaeologist while excavating the well-preserved long walls of this ancient city of northern Greece.

Dr Demetrios Lazarides, former Inspector-General of Greek Antiquities, said he had discovered more than 1,200 tree-trunks and stakes spiked into the sandy river bank to serve mainly as a support for the Strymon bridge.

He said: "We have never found in Greece such a vast quantity of wood that had survived for 2,500 years. It was preserved because of humidity."

Most of the stakes have now been sheathed in plaster to preserve them from disintegrating. The best pieces were moved to the archaeological museum of Kavala to undergo treatment by conservation experts.

Amphipolis, situated at a strategic point on the old road from Greece to the Hellespont, was captured by Athens in 429 BC and held as a colony. By controlling the famous Strymon bridge, the Athenians were also able to command the gold mines of Mount Pangaea.

During the Peloponnesian War, the colony became a bone of contention between Athens and Sparta and it was near the Strymon bridge that General Brasidas of Sparta and Cleor of Athens were killed during the epic battle of Amphipolis in 422 BC.

Dr Lazarides showed me a cluster of about 220 trunks and stakes between three and 10 centimetres wide, sunk into ground between the fortifica-



These tree-trunks, rammed into the river bank in about 425 BC, carried the strategic bridge across the Strymon for many centuries. The river is in the background.

tions and the river bank. He said: "I am sure that these were the piles of the classical bridge on the east bank."

Unfortunately dredgers, used several decades ago to make the river navigable, must have destroyed the piles on the west bank about 30 metres across the water. "All we found there was a few lead brackets such as were used to hold the piles together," he said.

The bridge support was found in line with one of the main gates of the powerful fortification walls that protected Amphipolis on the side of the river. Until now it had

been assumed that the city had walls only on one side.

"We have now established," Dr Lazarides explained, "that the long walls of Amphipolis ran 7,450 metres and were even longer than the long walls of the Themistocles in Athens." This discovery will force a revision of the prevailing archaeological opinion about the defences of Amphipolis, he added.

The bridge was probably built about 425 BC, considering the multitude of sherds of black-painted Attic pottery that was found there. "It must have been in use for very long," Dr Lazarides said, "because we found hundreds of coins of all periods from the classical to the Byzantine."

## Mrs Sakharov must return home from Italy

Rome, Nov 22.—The Soviet authorities have told Mrs Yelena Sakharov, wife of Dr Sakharov, the human rights campaigner, to return to Moscow by tomorrow, according to her daughter. She has been in Rome since September for eye surgery.

Her daughter, Mrs Tatyana Yankelovich, said today: "My mother is in a bad condition. She needs to stay here but the Soviet Consul has told her to go home tomorrow at the latest."

An application for her Soviet exit visa to be extended had been refused, Mrs Yankelovich said. Professor Renato Fresson, the eye specialist who has operated on Mrs Sakharov for glaucoma of both eyes in the past two years, said she needed two more months of treatment in Italy.

Her mother planned to ask for a new exit visa on her return tomorrow, the daughter said.—Reuter.

## Black Panther death book was really work of FBI

From Patrick Bragan  
Washington, Nov 22

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released more than 50,000 documents on its secret counter-intelligence programme known as "cointelpro", covering a 15-year period up until 1971. The papers give details of operations against the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Panthers and other extremist black groups, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers' Party and a variety of more or less subversive organisations.

There do not appear to be any new sensations. The worst excesses of Cointelpro were disclosed by the Church committee of intelligence matters in 1975. The most dramatic of all were efforts to discredit Dr Martin Luther King and drive him to suicide.

The papers were released under the Freedom of Information Act and were published with great reluctance. The FBI claims its right to withhold some documents, said to be

about 20 per cent of its archive on Cointelpro, but under the Act it can be taken to court to defend its continued censorship and the judge would decide how much it can permanently conceal.

The papers released so far show that in 1967 the FBI which had thoroughly infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan, thought of depositing its Imperial Wizard and putting an informant in his place. The idea was rejected.

The Communist Party was thoroughly infiltrated (the fact has been known, and considered a capital joke, for at least 20 years).

In the late 1960s the bureau produced a "Black Panther colouring book", which showed black children enthusiastically killing white policemen. A senate committee investigated the matter and much adverse publicity accrued to the Panthers, who rightly denied all knowledge of the book.

## Mr Vorster pledges 'fight to the last man'

From Nicholas Ashford  
Pretoria, Nov 22

English and Afrikaans speakers would defend South Africa to "the last man" against any communist attempt to take over the southern tip of Africa, Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, told an election meeting here tonight.

To loud applause he said South Africa would not only do this for its own sake but also for "the sake of the free world and Christianity."

South Africa was Europe's lifeline. Ships carrying thousands of Europe's oil needs and much of its food passed via the Cape. The country also possessed minerals, which, if they fell into communist hands, would give Russia a monopoly.

About the United Nations arms embargo, he said the weapons needed to fight in Africa were already being manufactured by South Africa. The arms being denied were those needed to fight a communist invasion. The embargo was part of Russia's strategy to gain control of southern Africa.

South Africa had already taken precautions against possible future embargoes by stockpiling strategic materials, including oil.

Pietermaritzburg is the heart of English-speaking South Africa, and much of Vorster's speech was aimed at wooing English speakers away from the opposition parties and into the ranks of the ruling National Party.

Speaking mainly in English, he said he had dedicated himself to improving relations between English and Afrikaans speakers. He criticized the English-language press for "trying to drive a wedge" between the two groups.

His speech was frequently punctuated by applause but also by a number of hecklers. At one stage a woman put a black shawl over her head and gave a black power salute.

Mr Vorster made it clear there was to be no softening on race issues. One-man-one-vote as out, except within the political institutions of the different race groups. His party could maintain separate residential areas, and as against integration in schools.

## Tanzanian reshuffle

Dar es Salaam, Nov 22.—

President Nyerere has dismissed 17 district party secretaries, who serve as area commissioners, appointed 19 new ones and transferred others.

These tree-trunks, rammed into the river bank in about 425 BC, carried the strategic bridge across the Strymon for many centuries. The river is in the background.



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## Mystery signal knocked out weather satellite

From Pearce Wright  
Cape Canaveral, Nov 22

Another blow is in prospect for the global weather forecasting system planned to be in operation by the end of next year.

The project should have made an important start last Thursday with the launch from here of a satellite called Meteor built by the European Space Agency as part of the £100m programme.

Aware that only a powerful transmitter could have caused the trouble, the search initially pinpointed a navy vessel that had conducted surface-to-air manoeuvres last Wednesday about 200 miles off the Florida coast. That conclusion was subsequently dropped.

Last night, the launch was put off for the fourth time. The trouble is that last Wednesday unexplained radio interference jammed part of the control system of the Delta launching rocket.

07/11/50



## OVERSEAS

## Australian poll hinges on new party

## No goodies or baddies for the Chippocrats

From Douglas Aitken  
Melbourne, Nov 22

With less than three weeks to go to the election, and the Labour Party steadily closing the gap on the Government, the main regret of Mr Malcolm Fraser, must be his treatment, soon after he was elected Prime Minister two years ago, of Mr Don Chipp.

Despite Mr Chipp's good record with the Liberal Party—he had been a minister under Mr Gorton and Mr McMahon—Mr Fraser considered him too progressive for the new conservative face of the Liberal Party and dropped him.

Deeply hurt and apparently politically destroyed, Mr Chipp smouldered dependently on the back benches for a month or two before suddenly launching the Australian Democrats, a new centre party whose detailed platform has still not been announced.

Treated at first with scepticism, it now seems likely that the Australian Democrats could decide the election through the distribution of their voters' preferences and might also hold the balance of power in the Senate.

The growth in their support is a remarkable event in recent Australian political history and most of the credit for this must go to Mr Chipp.

His predecessors, the all-gone Australia Party, seemed to appeal only to the extreme avant-garde. It is Mr Chipp's personal impetus which has captured the imagination of a large slice of disenchanted Australia.

The party has hardly any funds, no platform, no well-known names except that of Mr Chipp, and yet its influence is growing. The first test was the South Australian election in September when the Democrats took about 11 per cent of the vote in the seats they contested. That was only the start.

Three weeks ago in an important Victorian by-election, they attracted an astonishing 18 per cent of the vote from which it was clear that people were taking them seriously.

In the following election in Queensland—the most conservative state in Australia—the Democrats could afford to contest only a handful of seats, yet managed an average of 12 per cent.

Perhaps the most appealing



Mr Chipp: Bouncing back after being dropped.

aspect of the Democrats is their lack of a goodies and baddies approach, a style more geared to reason than a pure black and white debate. Mr Chipp has tried hard to create an attitude where there will be a more intelligent approach than simply the unions versus big business.

He believes, quite possibly rightly, that Australians are weary of the predictable finger-pointing of these two groups, a dying battle that after both Labour and Liberal governments has not solved the increasing economic problems.

Mr Chipp presents a rugged, easy-going facade, and speaks in refreshing if sometimes meaningless terms. For instance, when it is suggested that he might hold the balance of power in the Senate he gently reminds you that he prefers to call it the balance of reason.

One saving grace for the Government is that the "Chippocrats", as they have become known, have adopted the new policy of not directing their supporters about how to cast their preferences.

Nevertheless, it seems that as many as 70 per cent will give Labour as their second choice, which could conceivably win Labour the election.

The Democrats are not expected at this stage to win any seats in the House of Representatives but if support known to grow they could end up with one or two. They will almost certainly take a few seats in the Senate and one will be taken by Mr Chipp himself.

## Olympian swears loyalty to a breakfast cereal

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Nov 22

A legal action brought by the district attorney of San Francisco, through his consumer fraud department, carries dire implications for television advertisers. They might have to prove conclusively that the notable people who endorse their products actually use them.

The attorney, Mr Joe Freitas, has accused General Mills, a leading manufacturer of breakfast cereals, of false advertising. The claim arises from an advertisement which shows Bruce Jenner, the American athlete who won the gold medal for the decathlon at the Montreal Olympics, saying how much he owes to Wheaties, a long-established best-selling cereal advertised as "The breakfast of champions".

Mr Freitas claims that the advertisement implies that Wheaties were a vital part of Mr Jenner's diet while he was

training for the Olympics. He wants, but has not yet received, an affidavit from Mr Jenner to the effect that he did eat significant quantities of the cereal during the relevant period, together with affidavits from witnesses who saw him doing so.

Mr Jenner called a press conference yesterday and waxed indignant about the allegation that his word was not to be trusted. "I don't like people thinking I am not telling the truth," he said.

He gave details which lent support to the notion of a near-addiction to Wheaties. He says that he said, with peace and banana slices on top. If he is feeling specially ravenous, he will sometimes down a streak for breakfast as well.

In the advertisement, Mr Jenner maintains that "Wheaties have been on my breakfast table since I was a kid." At his press conference, he said ruefully that he wished he had saved the packet tops.

## Australia likely to restrict refugees' entry

Sydney, Nov 22.—Mr Michael McKellar, the Immigration Minister, hinted today that Australia would tighten its policy on letting in refugees from Indo-China.

He told a meeting of the International Affairs Institute that no country could afford to give the impression that any group could come in and stay.

He said that six small fishing vessels with 218 Vietnamese refugees on board had sailed into Darwin in the past 24 hours. More than 670 had reached Australia by sea since the end of the Vietnam War two and a half years ago, he added.—Reuter.

## Policemen to be disciplined for Hongkong attack

Hongkong, Nov 22.—Eleven police officers will be disciplined and one man prosecuted, in connexion with an attack on the headquarters of Hongkong's Independent Commission against Corruption last month, a Government spokesman said today.

About 40 people, believed to include off-duty police officers, attacked the offices after a police march by about 2,000 policemen to police headquarters on October 28. Five people in the commission offices were slightly injured.

The man to be prosecuted for a lawful assembly and assault was not named. The spokesman said: "Further investigations are continuing in an attempt to identify any other participants."—Reuter.

## Spassky's accuracy forces draw from Korchnoi

Belgrade, Nov 22.—Viktor Korchnoi and Boris Spassky today drew the first game of their final candidates' match to choose a challenger for Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion.

Korchnoi, the Russian grand master who defected to the West last year, appeared to have winning chances when the game was adjourned last night. But when Spassky's sealed forty-first move was opened to view, experts agreed that it was the best possible. The Soviet former world champion played precisely in the continuation and Korchnoi's advantage quickly disappeared.

After 32 moves Korchnoi offered a draw which was immediately accepted. The second game will be played tomorrow.

Some experts said Korchnoi had missed the win just before the adjournment with a weak forty-first move. These were the moves of the game:

White: Korchnoi, black: Spassky. English opening.  
1. P-O4 B-N5 2. N-K2 N-B5 3. P-B3 P-B3 4. P-K3 P-K3 5. P-Q4 P-Q4 6. P-R3 P-R3 7. P-N3 P-N3 8. P-B3 P-B3 9. P-K3 P-K3 10. P-Q4 P-Q4 11. P-R3 P-R3 12. P-N3 P-N3 13. P-B3 P-B3 14. P-K3 P-K3 15. P-Q4 P-Q4 16. P-R3 P-R3 17. P-N3 P-N3 18. P-B3 P-B3 19. P-K3 P-K3 20. P-Q4 P-Q4 21. P-R3 P-R3 22. P-N3 P-N3 23. P-B3 P-B3 24. P-K3 P-K3 25. P-Q4 P-Q4 26. P-R3 P-R3 27. P-N3 P-N3 28. P-B3 P-B3 29. P-K3 P-K3 30. P-Q4 P-Q4 31. P-R3 P-R3 32. P-N3 P-N3 33. P-B3 P-B3 34. P-K3 P-K3 35. P-Q4 P-Q4 36. P-R3 P-R3 37. P-N3 P-N3 38. P-B3 P-B3 39. P-K3 P-K3 40. P-Q4 P-Q4 41. P-R3 P-R3 42. P-N3 P-N3 43. P-B3 P-B3 44. P-K3 P-K3 45. P-Q4 P-Q4 46. P-R3 P-R3 47. P-N3 P-N3 48. P-B3 P-B3 49. P-K3 P-K3 50. P-Q4 P-Q4 51. P-R3 P-R3 52. P-N3 P-N3 53. P-B3 P-B3 54. P-K3 P-K3 55. P-Q4 P-Q4 56. P-R3 P-R3 57. P-N3 P-N3 58. P-B3 P-B3 59. P-K3 P-K3 60. P-Q4 P-Q4 61. P-R3 P-R3 62. P-N3 P-N3 63. P-B3 P-B3 64. P-K3 P-K3 65. P-Q4 P-Q4 66. P-R3 P-R3 67. P-N3 P-N3 68. P-B3 P-B3 69. P-K3 P-K3 70. P-Q4 P-Q4 71. P-R3 P-R3 72. P-N3 P-N3 73. P-B3 P-B3 74. P-K3 P-K3 75. P-Q4 P-Q4 76. P-R3 P-R3 77. P-N3 P-N3 78. P-B3 P-B3 79. P-K3 P-K3 80. P-Q4 P-Q4 81. P-R3 P-R3 82. P-N3 P-N3 83. P-B3 P-B3 84. P-K3 P-K3 85. P-Q4 P-Q4 86. P-R3 P-R3 87. P-N3 P-N3 88. P-B3 P-B3 89. P-K3 P-K3 90. P-Q4 P-Q4 91. P-R3 P-R3 92. P-N3 P-N3 93. P-B3 P-B3 94. P-K3 P-K3 95. P-Q4 P-Q4 96. P-R3 P-R3 97. P-N3 P-N3 98. P-B3 P-B3 99. P-K3 P-K3 100. P-Q4 P-Q4 101. P-R3 P-R3 102. P-N3 P-N3 103. P-B3 P-B3 104. P-K3 P-K3 105. P-Q4 P-Q4 106. P-R3 P-R3 107. P-N3 P-N3 108. P-B3 P-B3 109. P-K3 P-K3 110. P-Q4 P-Q4 111. P-R3 P-R3 112. P-N3 P-N3 113. P-B3 P-B3 114. P-K3 P-K3 115. P-Q4 P-Q4 116. P-R3 P-R3 117. P-N3 P-N3 118. P-B3 P-B3 119. P-K3 P-K3 120. P-Q4 P-Q4 121. P-R3 P-R3 122. P-N3 P-N3 123. P-B3 P-B3 124. P-K3 P-K3 125. P-Q4 P-Q4 126. P-R3 P-R3 127. P-N3 P-N3 128. P-B3 P-B3 129. P-K3 P-K3 130. P-Q4 P-Q4 131. P-R3 P-R3 132. P-N3 P-N3 133. P-B3 P-B3 134. P-K3 P-K3 135. P-Q4 P-Q4 136. P-R3 P-R3 137. P-N3 P-N3 138. P-B3 P-B3 139. P-K3 P-K3 140. P-Q4 P-Q4 141. P-R3 P-R3 142. P-N3 P-N3 143. P-B3 P-B3 144. P-K3 P-K3 145. P-Q4 P-Q4 146. P-R3 P-R3 147. P-N3 P-N3 148. P-B3 P-B3 149. P-K3 P-K3 150. P-Q4 P-Q4 151. P-R3 P-R3 152. P-N3 P-N3 153. P-B3 P-B3 154. P-K3 P-K3 155. P-Q4 P-Q4 156. P-R3 P-R3 157. P-N3 P-N3 158. P-B3 P-B3 159. P-K3 P-K3 160. P-Q4 P-Q4 161. P-R3 P-R3 162. P-N3 P-N3 163. P-B3 P-B3 164. P-K3 P-K3 165. P-Q4 P-Q4 166. P-R3 P-R3 167. P-N3 P-N3 168. P-B3 P-B3 169. P-K3 P-K3 170. P-Q4 P-Q4 171. P-R3 P-R3 172. P-N3 P-N3 173. P-B3 P-B3 174. P-K3 P-K3 175. P-Q4 P-Q4 176. P-R3 P-R3 177. P-N3 P-N3 178. P-B3 P-B3 179. P-K3 P-K3 180. P-Q4 P-Q4 181. P-R3 P-R3 182. P-N3 P-N3 183. P-B3 P-B3 184. P-K3 P-K3 185. P-Q4 P-Q4 186. P-R3 P-R3 187. P-N3 P-N3 188. P-B3 P-B3 189. P-K3 P-K3 190. P-Q4 P-Q4 191. P-R3 P-R3 192. P-N3 P-N3 193. P-B3 P-B3 194. P-K3 P-K3 195. P-Q4 P-Q4 196. P-R3 P-R3 197. P-N3 P-N3 198. P-B3 P-B3 199. P-K3 P-K3 200. P-Q4 P-Q4 201. P-R3 P-R3 202. P-N3 P-N3 203. P-B3 P-B3 204. P-K3 P-K3 205. P-Q4 P-Q4 206. P-R3 P-R3 207. P-N3 P-N3 208. P-B3 P-B3 209. P-K3 P-K3 210. P-Q4 P-Q4 211. P-R3 P-R3 212. P-N3 P-N3 213. P-B3 P-B3 214. P-K3 P-K3 215. P-Q4 P-Q4 216. P-R3 P-R3 217. P-N3 P-N3 218. P-B3 P-B3 219. P-K3 P-K3 220. P-Q4 P-Q4 221. P-R3 P-R3 222. P-N3 P-N3 223. P-B3 P-B3 224. P-K3 P-K3 225. P-Q4 P-Q4 226. P-R3 P-R3 227. P-N3 P-N3 228. P-B3 P-B3 229. P-K3 P-K3 230. P-Q4 P-Q4 231. P-R3 P-R3 232. P-N3 P-N3 233. P-B3 P-B3 234. P-K3 P-K3 235. P-Q4 P-Q4 236. P-R3 P-R3 237. P-N3 P-N3 238. P-B3 P-B3 239. P-K3 P-K3 240. P-Q4 P-Q4 241. P-R3 P-R3 242. P-N3 P-N3 243. P-B3 P-B3 244. P-K3 P-K3 245. P-Q4 P-Q4 246. P-R3 P-R3 247. P-N3 P-N3 248. P-B3 P-B3 249. P-K3 P-K3 250. P-Q4 P-Q4 251. P-R3 P-R3 252. P-N3 P-N3 253. P-B3 P-B3 254. P-K3 P-K3 255. P-Q4 P-Q4 256. P-R3 P-R3 257. P-N3 P-N3 258. P-B3 P-B3 259. P-K3 P-K3 260. P-Q4 P-Q4 261. P-R3 P-R3 262. P-N3 P-N3 263. P-B3 P-B3 264. P-K3 P-K3 265. P-Q4 P-Q4 266. P-R3 P-R3 267. P-N3 P-N3 268. P-B3 P-B3 269. P-K3 P-K3 270. P-Q4 P-Q4 271. P-R3 P-R3 272. P-N3 P-N3 273. P-B3 P-B3 274. P-K3 P-K3 275. P-Q4 P-Q4 276. P-R3 P-R3 277. P-N3 P-N3 278. P-B3 P-B3 279. P-K3 P-K3 280. P-Q4 P-Q4 281. P-R3 P-R3 282. P-N3 P-N3 283. P-B3 P-B3 284. P-K3 P-K3 285. P-Q4 P-Q4 286. P-R3 P-R3 287. P-N3 P-N3 288. P-B3 P-B3 289. P-K3 P-K3 290. P-Q4 P-Q4 291. P-R3 P-R3 292. P-N3 P-N3 293. P-B3 P-B3 294. P-K3 P-K3 295. P-Q4 P-Q4 296. P-R3 P-R3 297. P-N3 P-N3 298. P-B3 P-B3 299. P-K3 P-K3 300. P-Q4 P-Q4 301. P-R3 P-R3 302. P-N3 P-N3 303. P-B3 P-B3 304. P-K3 P-K3 305. P-Q4 P-Q4 306. P-R3 P-R3 307. P-N3 P-N3 308. P-B3 P-B3 309. P-K3 P-K3 310. P-Q4 P-Q4 311. P-R3 P-R3 312. P-N3 P-N3 313. P-B3 P-B3 314. P-K3 P-K3 315. P-Q4 P-Q4 316. P-R3 P-R3 317. P-N3 P-N3 318. P-B3 P-B3 319. P-K3 P-K3 320. P-Q4 P-Q4 321. P-R3 P-R3 322. P-N3 P-N3 323. P-B3 P-B3 324. P-K3 P-K3 325. P-Q4 P-Q4 326. P-R3 P-R3 327. P-N3 P-N3 328. P-B3 P-B3 329. P-K3 P-K3 330. P-Q4 P-Q4 331. P-R3 P-R3 332. P-N3 P-N3 333. P-B3 P-B3 334. P-K3 P-K3 335. P-Q4 P-Q4 336. P-R3 P-R3 337. P-N3 P-N3 338. P-B3 P-B3 339. P-K3 P-K3 340. P-Q4 P-Q4 341. P-R3 P-R3 342. P-N3 P-N3 343. P-B3 P-B3 344. P-K3 P-K3 345. P-Q4 P-Q4 346. P-R3 P-R3 347. P-N3 P-N3 348. P-B3 P-B3 349. P-K3 P-K3 350. P-Q4 P-Q4 351. P-R3 P-R3 352. P-N3 P-N3 353. P-B3 P-B3 354. P-K3 P-K3 355. P-Q4 P-Q4 356. P-R3 P-R3 357. P-N3 P-N3 358. P-B3 P-B3 359. P-K3 P-K3 360. P-Q4 P-Q4 361. P-R3 P-R3 362. P-N3 P-N3 363. P-B3 P-B3 364. P-K3 P-K3 365. P-Q4 P-Q4 366. P-R3 P-R3 367. P-N3 P-N3 368. P-B3 P-B3 369. P-K3 P-K3 370. P-Q4 P-Q4 371. P-R3 P-R3 372. P-N3 P-N3 373. P-B3 P-B3 374. P-K3 P-K3 375. P-Q4 P-Q4 376. P-R3 P-R3 377. P-N3 P-N3 378. P-B3 P-B3 379. P-K3 P-K3 380. P-Q4 P-Q4 381. P-R3 P-R3 382. P-N3 P-N3 383. P-B3 P-B3 384. P-K3 P-K3 385. P-Q4 P-Q4 386. P-R3 P-R3 387. P-N3 P-N3 388. P-B3 P-B3 389. P-K3 P-K3 390. P-Q4 P-Q4 391. P-R3 P-R3 392. P-N3 P-N3 393. P-B3 P-B3 394. P-K3 P-K3 395. P-Q4 P-Q4 396. P-R3 P-R3 397. P-N3 P-N3 398. P-B3 P-B3 399. P-K3 P-K3 400. P-Q4 P-Q4 401. P-R3 P-R3 402. P-N3 P-N3 403. P-B3 P-B3 404. P-K3 P-K3 405. P-Q4 P-Q4 406. P-R3 P-R3 407. P-N3 P-N3 408. P-B3 P-B3 409. P-K3 P-K3 410. P-Q4 P-Q4 411. P-R3 P-R3 412. P-N3 P-N3 413. P-B3 P-B3 414. P-K3 P-K3 415. P-Q4 P-Q4 416. P-R3 P-R3 417. P-N3 P-N3 418. P-B3 P-B3 419. P-K3 P-K3 420. P-Q4 P-Q4 421. P-R3 P-R3 422. P-N3 P-N3 423. P-B3 P-B3 424. P-K3 P-K3 425. P-Q4 P-Q4 426. P-R3 P-R3 427. P-N3 P-N3 428. P-B3 P-B3 429. P-K3 P-K3 430. P-Q4 P-Q4 431. P-R3 P-R3 432. P-N3 P-N3 433. P-B3 P-B3 434. P-K3 P-K3 435. P-Q4 P-Q4 436. P-R3 P-R3 437. P-N3 P-N3 438. P-B3 P-B3 439. P-K3 P-K3 440. P-Q4 P-Q4 441. P-R3 P-R3 442. P-N3 P-N3 443. P-B3 P-B3 444. P-K3 P-K3 445. P-Q4 P-Q4 446. P-R3 P-R3 447. P-N3 P-N3 448. P-B3 P-B3 449. P-K3 P-K3 450. P-Q4 P-Q4 451. P-R3 P-R3 452. P-N3 P-N3 453. P-B3 P-B3 454. P-K3 P-K3 455. P-Q4 P-Q4 456. P-R3 P-R3 457. P-N3 P-N3 458. P-B3 P-B3 459. P-K3 P-K3 460. P-Q4 P-Q4 461. P-R3 P-R3 462. P-N3 P-N3 463. P-B3 P-B3 464. P-K3 P-K3 465. P-Q4 P-Q4 466. P-R3 P-R3 467. P-N3 P-N3 468. P-B3 P-B3 469. P-K3 P-K3 470. P-Q4 P-Q4 471. P-R3 P-R3 472. P-N3 P-N3 473. P-B3 P-B3 474. P-K3 P-K3 475. P-Q4 P-Q4 476. P-R3 P-R3 477. P-N3 P-N3 478. P-B3 P-B3 479. P-K3 P-K3 480. P-Q4 P-Q4 481. P-R3 P-R3 482. P-N3 P-N3 483. P-B3 P-B3 484. P-K3 P-K3 485. P-Q4 P-Q4 486. P-R3 P-R3 487. P-N3 P-N3 488. P-B3 P-B3 489. P-K3 P-K3 490. P-Q4 P-Q4 491. P-R3 P-R3 492. P-N3 P-N3 493. P-B3 P-B3 494. P-K3 P-K3 495. P-Q4 P-Q4 496. P-R3 P-R3 497. P-N3 P-N3 498. P-B3 P-B3 499. P-K3 P-K3 500. P-Q4 P-Q4 501. P-R3 P-R3 502. P-N3 P-N3 503. P-B3 P-B3 504. P-K3 P-K3 505. P-Q4 P-Q4 506. P-R3 P-R3 507. P-N3 P-N3 508. P-B3 P-B3 509. P-K3 P-K3 510. P-Q4 P-Q4 511. P-R3 P-R3 512. P-N3 P-N3 513. P-B3 P-B3 514. P-K3 P-K3 515. P-Q4 P-Q4 516. P-R3 P-R3 517. P-N3 P-N3 518. P-B3 P-B3 519. P-K3 P-K3 520. P-Q4 P-Q4 521. P-R3 P-R3 522. P-N3 P-N3 523. P-B3 P-B3 524. P-K3 P-K3 525. P-Q4 P-Q4 526. P-R3 P-R3 527. P-N3 P-N3 528. P-B3 P-B3 529. P-K3 P-K3 530. P-Q4 P-Q4 531. P-R3 P-R3 532. P-N3 P-N3 533. P-B3 P-B3 534. P-K3 P-K3 535. P-Q4 P-Q4 536. P-R3 P-R3 537. P-N3 P-N3 538. P-B3 P-B3 539. P-K3 P-K3 540. P-Q4 P-Q4 541. P-R3 P-R3 542. P-N3 P-N3 543. P-B3 P-B3 544. P-K3 P-K3 545. P-Q4 P-Q4 546. P-R3 P-R3 547. P-N3 P-N3 548. P-B3 P-B3 549. P-K3 P-K3 550. P-Q4 P-Q4 551. P-R3 P-R3 552. P-N3 P-N3 553. P-B3 P-B3 554. P-K3 P-K3 555. P-Q4 P-Q4 556. P-R3 P-R3 557. P-N3 P-N3 558. P-B3 P-B3 559. P-K3 P-K3 560. P-Q4 P-Q4 561. P-R3 P-R3 562. P-N3 P-N3 563. P-B3 P-B3 564. P-K3 P-K3 565. P-Q4 P-Q4 566. P-R3 P-R3 567. P-N3 P-N3 568. P-B3 P-B3 569. P-K3 P-K3 570. P-Q4 P-Q4 571. P-R3 P-R3 572. P-N3 P-N3 573. P-B3 P-B3 574. P-K3 P-K3 575. P-Q4 P-Q4 576. P-R3 P-R3 577. P-N3 P-N3 578. P-B3 P-B3 579. P-K3 P-K3 580. P-Q4 P-Q4 581. P-R3 P-R3 582. P-N3 P-N3 583. P-B3 P-B3 584. P-K3 P-K3 585. P-Q4 P-Q4 586. P-R3 P-R3 587. P-N3 P-N3 588. P-B3 P-B3 589. P-K3 P-K3 590. P-Q4 P-Q4 591. P-R3 P-R3 592. P-N3 P-N3 593. P-B3 P-B3 594. P-K3 P-K3 595. P-Q4 P-Q4 596. P-R3 P-R3 597. P-N3 P-N3 598. P-B3 P-B3 599. P-K3 P-K3 600. P-Q4 P-Q4 601. P-R3 P-R3 602. P-N3 P-N3 603. P-B3 P-B3 604. P-K3 P-K3 605. P-Q4 P-Q4 606. P-R3 P-R3 607. P-N3 P-N3 608. P-B3 P-B3 609. P-K3 P-K3 610. P-Q4 P-Q4 611. P-R3 P-R3 612. P-N3 P-N3 613. P-B3 P-B3 614. P-K3 P-K3 615. P-Q4 P-Q4 616. P-R3 P-R3 617. P-N3 P-N3 618. P-B3 P-B3 619. P-K3 P-K3 620. P-Q4 P-Q4 621. P-R3 P-R3 622. P-N3 P-N3 623. P-B3 P-B3 624. P-K3 P-K3 625. P-Q4 P-Q4 626. P-R3 P-R3 627. P-N3 P-N3 628. P-B3 P-B3 629. P-K3 P-K3 630. P-Q4 P-Q4 631. P-R3 P-R3 632. P-N3 P-N3 633. P-B3 P-B3 634. P-K3 P-K3 635. P-Q4 P-Q4 636. P-R3 P-R3 637. P-N3 P-N3 638. P-B3 P-B3 639. P-K3 P-K3 640. P-Q4 P-Q4 641. P-R3 P-R3 642. P-N3 P-N3 643. P-B3 P-B3 644. P-K3 P-K3 645. P-Q4 P-Q4 646. P-R3 P-R3 647. P-N3 P-N3 648. P-B3 P-B3 649. P-K3 P-K3 650. P-Q4 P-Q4 651. P-R3 P-R3 652. P-N3 P-N3 653. P-B3 P-B3 654. P-K3 P-K3 655. P-Q4 P-Q4 656. P-R3 P-R3 657. P-N3 P-N3 658. P-B3 P-B3 659. P-K3 P-K3 660. P-Q4 P-Q4 661. P-R3 P-R3 662. P-N3 P-N3 663. P-B3 P-B3 664. P-K3 P-K3 665. P-Q4 P-Q4 666. P-R3 P-R3 667. P-N3 P-N3 668. P-B3 P-B3 669. P-K3 P-K3 670. P-Q4 P-Q4 671. P-R3 P-R3 672. P-N3 P-N3 673. P-B3 P-B3 674. P-K3 P-K3 675. P-Q4 P-Q4 676. P-R3 P-R3 677. P-N3 P-N3 678. P-B3 P-B3 679. P-K3 P-K3 680. P-Q4 P-Q4 681. P-R3 P-R3 682. P-N3 P-N3 683. P-B3 P-B3 684. P-K3 P-K3 685. P-Q4 P-Q4 686. P-R3 P-R3 687. P-N3 P-N3 688. P-B3 P-B3 689. P-K3 P-K3 690. P-Q4 P-Q4 691. P-R3 P-R3 692. P-N3 P-N3 693. P-B3 P-B3 694. P-K3 P-K3 695. P-Q4 P-Q4 696. P-R3 P-R3 697. P-N3 P-N3 698. P-B3 P-B3 699. P-K3 P-K3 700. P-Q4 P-Q4 701. P-R3 P-R3 702. P-N3 P-N3 703. P-B3 P-B3 704. P-K3 P-K3 705. P-Q4 P-Q4 706. P-R3 P-R3 707. P-N3 P-N3 708. P-B3 P-B3 709. P-K3 P-K3 710. P-Q4 P-Q4 711. P-R3 P-R3 712. P-N3 P-N3 713. P-B3 P-B3 714. P-K3 P-K3 715. P-Q4 P-Q4 716. P-R3 P-R3 717. P-N3 P-N3 718. P-B3 P-B3 719. P-K3 P-K3 720. P-Q4 P-Q4 721. P-R3 P-R3 722. P-N3 P-N3 723. P-B3 P-B3 724. P-K3 P-K3 725. P-Q4 P-Q4 726. P-R3 P-R3 727. P-N3 P-N3 728. P-B3 P-B3 729. P-K3 P-K3 730. P-Q4 P-Q4 731. P-R3 P-R3 732. P-N3 P-N3 733. P-B3 P-B3 734. 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## SPORT

## Racing

## Why Birds Nest will not branch out

By Michael Seely  
The confusion surrounding the future of Birds Nest was cleared up yesterday. After Birds Nest's disappointing half-length defeat of Night Nurse at Newcastle on Saturday, the impression arose that Birds Nest would never again take on Night Nurse in the Champion Hurdle. And indeed neither would he meet the reigning champion in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

Bob Turnell was not at Newcastle. His joint owner, Ian Scott, was besieged by the press for a concrete statement. Mr Scott said that in his view Saturday's winner preferred Newcastle to Cheltenham and Kempton. This was immediately construed that an announcement that Birds Nest would not run in the Champion Hurdle.

After a consultation between the joint owners yesterday, however, the partners concluded that they had no option but to follow last year's programme. Birds Nest, the handsome seven-year-old, is more than likely that Birds Nest will tackle Night Nurse at Kempton as well as Cheltenham.

Unless Birds Nest is put to rest, there is no other course for his connections can pursue. Remembering that he is receiving 4 lb from Night Nurse on Saturday, he is still the second best hurdler in the country.

That point was hammered home again and again last season apart from his failure in the championship itself. Birds Nest simply did not give his true level of performance in March. Mr Scott says that despite all that has been written to the contrary, heavy going is not the liking of his hurdler. The truth of the matter is that the gelding, because of his respect for his rivals, is now much more of a contender than he was on a really firm ground. But his sparkling turn of foot makes him effective on any reasonable surface.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Birds Nest's final appearance of the season in the Scottish Champion Hurdle was one of the finest of his career. Giving 10 lb to that brilliant flat animal, Sea Pigeon, on good going, he was beaten only a length and a half.

The Night Nurse's hurdling qualities may always prove too much for



Bob Turnell: no option but to follow last season's programme with his handsome seven-year-old hurdler.

Birds Nest in the hurry-burry of the ultimate test at the National Hunt meeting, there is little doubt that the gelding will be reintroduced into most of the leading bookmakers' lists on the Champion Hurdle yesterday and is quoted at 10-1 with Top Coral.

A superb card awaits racegoers at Newbury on Saturday. Apart from the main event, the Hennessy Gold Cup, the Berkshire Hurdle has drawn some of the best young talent in the country. Peterhot is the best of the five-year-olds left in at the four-day stage of declarations. But the gelding, because of his respect for his rivals, is now much more of a contender than he was on a really firm ground. But his sparkling turn of foot makes him effective on any reasonable surface.

There are 17 left in the Hennessy. Fuke Waiyza will be delighted that Richard Bead has accepted with Border Incident, and Ford Devon who will be attempting to give Saxon House an incredible seventh triumph in this race will now carry his allotted weight of 11st 10lb, by no means an impossible burden for a high class steeplechaser.

With many of the unfancied horses dropping out, there has been a general tightening up of the odds available about the leading candidates. Ford Devon's price has been cut to 4-1 with all the principal bookmakers. Richard Bead's and Tamin's are second and third favourites at around 7-1.

The runners can be divided into three groups. The two class horses are Ford Devon and the 1974 winner, Royal Marshal II. In a category of his own is the recently landed Tamin with 11st. There are the up and coming young

horses of whom the best is yet to be seen. This is the group which generally provides the winner. For example, there are the two-year-olds, Ford Devon's second string, Master Spy, who will have the redoubtable assistance of Jockey King in the saddle; the Mackintosh Gold Cup winner, Bachelor's Hall, and Jack Gifford's seven-year-old, Alder, who will go well on his seasonal reappearance at Leicester last week.

There is racing at Fountains Park and Worcester today. An interesting afternoon awaits visitors to the Sussex course. Tim Forster is launching a four-horse raid. His best chance of scoring are probably with Lough in the Wexford Sweepstake Steeplechase and with Deep Memories, who can record his third win off the rear in the second division of the Worthing Novices Hurdle.

Lough earned in an extraordinary performance on his seasonal reappearance behind Fennell at Worcester. After losing his place half a mile from home, the gelding made up ground so rapidly that he was only a length behind the winner at the time. Fred Winer may also lead a double with Rough and Tumble in the Avonford Novices Steeplechase and with Manfield in the first division of the Newmarket Hurdle.

The day's feature race, the Kent Challenge Cup, may fall to the top weight, Dycote. The owner's husband, Mark Fenton, will be in the saddle. Ascor's Black and White Hurdle as he has been forestalled in the ante-post market by some vigilant punters. It is to be hoped he has not cut off their noses to spite his own face as Dycote is now a long way from the form of the 1974 winner, Royal Marshal II. In a category of his own is the recently landed Tamin with 11st. There are the up and coming young

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The nine-year-old turned in some brilliant jumping. The top-weighted Tom Morgan was quickly into his stride but, with five pounds to spare, Flashy Boy won on terms, and away clear at the penultimate fence. "He may run in the Mackintosh Gold Cup, but I'm not sure," said McGovern, who rides him in the Irish Sweepstake on Boxing Day. "Watson said there was a freak dividend in the Mackintosh Handicap Hurdle when the 9 to 2 chance, Three Visions won the race, but I'm not sure."

There was a freak dividend in the Mackintosh Handicap Hurdle when the 9 to 2 chance, Three Visions won the race, but I'm not sure. Flashy Boy paid 7 to 10 for Three Visions winning the race, while Coffee Boy paid 3 to 1 a place. Flashy Boy was trained by Arthur Stephenson, and was bought in Ireland and was a three-year-old at the time of his recent win at Carlisle.

"She is a very game filly, but I will keep her to small handicaps for the time being," said McGovern, who is representing her husband, said: "That is only my fifth winner this season and I'm not sure if I can keep her to small handicaps for the time being."

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Irish Shamrock clears the last fence to win from Sanskrit at Nottingham yesterday.

## Lucky three for Gaselee again

"There is a box" has twice proved lucky for the Lambourn trainer, Nick Gaselee, this season. After Irish Shamrock had won the Mansfield Novices Steeplechase at Nottingham yesterday, he revealed that the chestnut had travelled to the meeting with the winners of the two previous races, Somers and Mendall. At Stratford-on-Avon, in September, when he scored with Komag Fantasy, that horse's two travelling companions, Count Klause and Super Doo, also won.

Irish Shamrock provided the second leg of a 30-1 double for the 24-year-old Mark Floyd, who did well to remain in the saddle when the gelding made a bad mistake three fences from home.

The Allcock, challenging at the time, made an even worse blunder and parted company with Colin Thicker, leaving Irish Shamrock clear. The Lambourn gelding won by a length and a half, with two lengths from Sanskrit for his two

and a half length victory. "Irish Shamrock is a very clever little horse," said Gaselee, giving credit to William Rooney for finding him in Northern Ireland where he was gelded. "He was a runner. Earlier, Floyd had ridden Mendall to a runaway victory in the Bingham Handicap Steeplechase."

Toby Balding saddled Somers for the Colwick Selling Handicap. He was a runner. Earlier, Floyd had ridden Mendall to a runaway victory in the Bingham Handicap Steeplechase."

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into the lead at the fifth flight and the pair went right away from their rivals to win unchallenged from Siddip and Just Spider.

Peter Kelly took the right to claim when he won the Grilling Gibbons in the Clifton Handicap Hurdle. It was his twenty-seventh success. Grilling Gibbons is trained at Market Deeping by George Vergette, with whom Kelly has been associated for about 15 years.

Lord Harrington, whose father the Duke of Devonshire won with The Dance here on Monday, has a share with trainer David Morley's brother, Jonathan, on Glisando, who won the first division of the Toller-ton Novices Hurdle. The Bury St Edmunds gelding was favorite, but his stable companion, Savir, odds on for the second division, found 33-1 outsider, Five Bells, from Jimmy Fitzgerald's Malton stable, half a length too good for him.

## Smith takes score to 20 with a double

Bill Smith came to Devon and Exeter yesterday for two rides and a double on the Exeter and Diamond Edge, to take his score for the season to 20. Vindicta, an unmarked for the Grand National, was the first of the two winners. The 10-year-old was running for the first time since his last ride in the Grand National. Vindicta's jockey was running really well, the Somerset trainer backed him. The 10-1 shot never gave up and he was in the lead when the race was over. Smith's double was a 20-1 double. The 10-1 shot never gave up and he was in the lead when the race was over. Smith's double was a 20-1 double.

Vindicta is lucky to be racing. Two seasons ago he broke a bone in his shoulder and Panmure was grateful to Roy Pridmore, a surgeon at Exeter Hospital, who planned the broken bone and effected a first class repair. Before Aldred however, Vindicta was a 10-1 shot. He was in the lead when the race was over. Smith's double was a 20-1 double.

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In Wincanton's Lord Stalbridge Memorial Gold Cup in which Panmure also intends running, Diamond Edge, to take his score for the season to 20. Vindicta, an unmarked for the Grand National, was the first of the two winners. The 10-year-old was running for the first time since his last ride in the Grand National. Vindicta's jockey was running really well, the Somerset trainer backed him. The 10-1 shot never gave up and he was in the lead when the race was over. Smith's double was a 20-1 double.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

Also appears on page 13

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

## OPERA AND BALLET

**COLISEUM.** Credit cards. 01-240 0538. Reservations 01-240 0538. **CLUB NATIONAL OPERA.** Tonight 7.30 The Tales of Hoffmann. Tomorrow 8.30 The Tales of Hoffmann. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**COVENT GARDEN.** C.C. 240 0066. (Cardholders 240 0066). Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tomorrow 8.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Sat. & Sun. 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.** Rosebery Ave. E.C.1. Tel. 01-253 1071. Until Dec. 10. 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**TEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE.** Tomorrow 8.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**PERFORMANCE.** Guest Performance by Lynn Seymour.

## CONCERTS

**NEW GALLERY.** 123 Regent St. Tel. 01-253 1071. Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**PURCELL ROOM.** Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**ST. JOHN'S.** 123 Regent St. Tel. 01-253 1071. Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL.** Tonight 8.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL.** Tomorrow 8.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**WIGMORE HALL.** 55a St. Martin's Lane. Tel. 01-253 1071. Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

## THEATRES

**AMPHITHEATRE.** 01-253 1071. Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**THE MUSICAL MUSICAL.** Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**THE TWO KINGS.** Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

**DEBORAH KERR.** Tonight 7.30 p.m. *Edmondo*. Tickets: Fri. Sat. 3.0. Sun. 2.0. Balcony seats always available day of performance.

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## THE ARTS



Sherrill Milnes and Plácido Domingo with admirers

## 'Rigoletto' in an awkward fix

The demands of repertory opera and live performance for a national television audience came into conflict with the new production, at the Metropolitan Opera House, of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. I saw two performances, the first in which Sherrill Milnes assumed the title role on short notice for that night only, and the third, which was televised.

It is difficult to know just how much of the staging of John Dexter was influenced by the television cameras, which would be in attendance for one of the performances. Dexter denied any special influence, and in an interview during the telecast declared that he was opposed to such transmissions (except in the sense that they brought the Met to a wider visual audience), preferring strictly made-for-television operas. There is no doubt, however, that the lighting throughout the first performance and certainly the telecast, so that Rigoletto and Sparafucile were lit in broad daylight. Rigoletto needed no torch to see his face before his house and no lightning flash to discover the identity of the person in the sack.

The production as a whole lacked that dimension of human emotion that is built

into the score, and only the last act had consistent dramatic thrust. In part this failure can be laid to the ugly and bearding unit set of Tanya Molisevitch, which was supposed to be a crumbling castle (no symbolize the decadence of the Medici court) but which was in reality a copy of Bosch's painting of the Tower of Babel, which is quite something else symbolically. The demands of this hulking set were such that numerous stage cameras were watered down or muffled entirely. Monterone's entrance, Gilda's entrance, Gilda's exit to the prison, last phrases of the opera, were all lost to the television audience.

The case was not up to the vocal and dramatic demands of the composer. Leaving aside Mike's *Rigoletto*—which in the circumstances was more than realized—Corbelli's performance was still suffering from his vocal indisposition, especially in the early scenes, and his portrayal of the father needed further coherence and intensity. The whole of the central scene of his searching for evidence of Gilda and his outburst at the courtiers was far too generalized. The role of the Duke of Mantua let a bit high for Plácido Domingo's tenor, and

## Crime being seen to be done

World in Action Granada

Stanley Reynolds

A tough, and no doubt overworked, New York District Attorney working in the Bronx, which averages 10 murders a week, was praising the new use of videotaped confessions, which was the subject of Granada's *World in Action* on Monday on ITV. In his experience, he said, guilty men liked to confess to set the crime off their chests or consciences.

There was a familiar ring about that. Indeed, it has always been a recurrent theme of police detectives and prosecutors everywhere. But then the DA used a particularly American expression. He said the culprit, having confessed freely, more often than not changed his mind when he "saw the hands of a jailhouse lawyer".

Now, a jailhouse lawyer is an essential part of a democratic legal system, of justice itself. The programme, entitled *Got It Taped*, did not, however, go into the fine points of the law of evidence. Viewers saw instead a series of small-time crooks, mostly black men by the way, getting arrested at a party in Washington, DC, the party being thrown by Federal and local police undercover agents pretending to be Mafia fences, the receivers of stolen goods.

There was an amusing, almost an endearing touch to the snoopers' police work offering at the party. Girls, of course, and narcotics, a chance to meet the Mafia Don, and "door prizes". One felon even broke out of jail to get to this party only to find that the door prize was an arrest. Entrapment, that is, the police encouraging a man to

commit a crime, is against the law, and much of what was seen in this American film on Monday did look very much like entrapment. Undercover agents posed as fences buying stolen property, and one bent assistant US Attorney was even haggling over the price of the inside information he had to sell and then paying the payment into his pocketbook. The undercover man buying the crooked law man's information said he had given the US Attorney "every opportunity" to back out.

It did not look that way, however. The use of videotaped testimony in the case of a woman well in her eighties and too feeble to come to court was an instance, on the other hand, of the court's coming to her through the miracle of television. Video confessions also tend to destroy that old dodge of a villain arriving in court looking like a lay preacher or a social worker.

At the same time, however, does look his best when he falls foul of the law and is arrested? The programme did not go into this. It had not the time in 30 minutes. We merely saw how videotape has become a new police and prosecution aid.

Perhaps the most eerie note was a DA who said that a jury in a court feels strange and out of place and then they see a friend. They see, he said, the television set. They believe the commercials, he said, and they believe the television confession. One wondered how far it was to lie in a television commercial, a Supreme Court decision is bound to come on video confessions.

On Monday, however, it looked very much like a trap not only being done but being seen to be done. Whether it is justice is another story.

Czech Philharmonic/Kosler Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

It is probably a fallacy to suppose that an orchestra necessarily has a particular authority when it comes to play the music of its own country, unless that music is very new. No one would quarrel with that, but the Czech Philharmonic, which visited the South Bank, on Monday, bears much resemblance to the Czech Philharmonic which Dvorak conducted more than 80 years ago. Were the advantage of the latter, the tempo, the phrasing, the use of the occasion to explore some eccentric but not wholly fruitless notions of tempo and phrasing. In the Dvorak, Mr. Kosler was by himself, and the performance was a masterpiece of many scrupulously crafted passages and others that were under the circumstances, they could never be more than momentary pleasures.

Whatever the answers to those questions, I would doubt Dvorak employed a conducting style quite like that of Zdenek Kosler, the orchestra's present chief guest conductor.

Stimmung Round House

Barry Millington

Although Stockhausen's *Stimmung* is now nearly a decade old, it has yet to enter the repertoire of the average vocal ensemble; Monday's performance by Singcircle (rehearsed by Gregory Rose) was actually the first to be given by a British group in London. That is hardly surprising since the work demands from the six vocalists for whom it is written a long period of preparation in which they develop a new technique of singing. They are required to think in terms of upper partials rather than fundamental notes and to produce a wide range of timbral variations on the basic vowel sounds.

To perform *Stimmung* effectively the singers need talent, dedication and a sense of humour; the first two qualities were evident on Monday but the third came across only at a late stage. As a result, there was an element of self-consciousness that prevented one from hearing the music as an agglomeration of disembodied sounds rather than as the performance of six singers seated on the Round House platform. The magic names, for example, that are at intervals tossed in, to be absorbed into the texture of whichever "model" is in operation at that time, were often chanted in too hurried a fashion to evoke the ancient Aztec rituals that so fascinated Stockhausen.

On the other hand, the "poems" were delivered with a suitable flexibility, and just to maintain a single pitch for over 80 minutes even with the help of the specified tape, is no small feat of staying power. With a shade less reluctance to traverse the whole spectrum of vowel modulations as indicated by the composer, this could be an exciting interpretation of *Stimmung*. Singcircle are taking the work on tour: I am sure that their performances will grow in confidence.

BBC Singers/Poole Queen Elizabeth Hall

William Mann

The much increased concert activity of the BBC Singers is bringing out some welcome and uncommonly performed works. On Monday, forsaking St John's where their regular series takes place, they brought to South Bank two strikingly contrasted sacred compositions by great virtuoso pianists.

Liszt's *Via crucis* reminds us of the pianist, with its prominent keyboard accompaniment, either for piano or, differently notated, for organ. Indeed it is not so much the keyboard as the choir which accompanies Liszt's private, interior meditation at the piano (more effective than the organ part) on the 14 stations of the Cross, answering his bold, acrobatic evocations with appropriate sentences from the New Testament, a fragment of the Roman Catholic plainsong, or a Bach chorale.

In Monday's performance, presumably being recorded for a future broadcast, the outstanding feature was Howard Shelley's powerfully intense and pungent account of that piano

part. The choral and solo vocal contributions were neatly and carefully controlled by John Poole and his choristers, in the spirit of a remarkable, compelling piece.

The BBC Singers were (some of them) limbering up for their more numerous, taxing assaults, after the interval, upon Rachmaninov's *Vespers*. It is a big work for a large, unaccompanied choir, the setting of the texts controlled by rigidly prescribed ecclesiastical rules.

The result is far from austere, even voluptuous with its richly undulating choral harmonies, full-throated cries at climaxes (a glorious one in the "Nunc dimittis"), haunting parallel octaves for sopranos and tenors, buoyant separation of choral masses, and graciously inevitable cadences—a by-way of the familiar Rachmaninov.

It was grandly sung, the choir's reserves strong to the final psalm for the Virgin, the opulent harmonies scrupulously balanced. A Russian choir will give more edge to the vocal line, more intensity to the serene passages, though Alan Byers's tenor solos were stylishly inclusive. The liturgical restrictions put musical diversity in danger, but Mr Poole's enthusiasm kept us agog throughout.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.



Photograph by Donald Cooper

Denis Lawson and Philip Sayer

Censored Scenes from King Kong Open Space

Ned Chaillet

If it took an act of censorship by the BBC to get Howard Schuman back into the theatre after years of writing for television, then the theatre has benefited. Originally filmed by the BBC, *Censored Scenes from King Kong* has moved on its shelves since the three-day week while Mr Schuman has gone on to acclaim for his *Rock Follies* series. Some of the techniques and obsessions of the series resurface in the stage version of *Kong*, including a fascination with "the show business" and a blend of songs in different styles, but it is, as the programme says, "a play about paranoia and censorship".

It does not become clear until a little way into the story that the paranoia is on a global scale. Although it is not the extravagant epic that *Illuminatus* was, the action stretches from a Buddhist monastery in Japan to a warehouse in Wapping and includes the entire history of the Third Reich. The censorship, however, is a subject from the first second.

As the action veers to violence, drugs or sex, a producer, heard but not seen, advises the playwright that certain omissions are in order, even on the fringe, if the Arts Council is to be pleased. While not as apt as such scenes might seem on

television, they underline the central search for an uncut version of *King Kong*, said to contain a scene of explicit sex between Kong and Fay Wray.

While Denis Lawson as a lone reporter seeks the improbable footage, Mr Schuman offers a vision of the 1930s, where a Nazi-funded night club prepares to present a resident act consisting of a black, bi-sexual, clairvoyant pianist and two women described as a mixture of Nietzsche, J. S. Bach and the Andrews Sisters, in a return to glamour amid austerity.

Obviously expanded and updated from the television version, and admirably controlled in Colin Bucksey's production, the play comes near to bursting with ideas. Too often songs, with some nice music by Andy Roberts, stretch out scenes which are already over-stretched, though, there are delights even there with Chive Merrison manically pogo-dancing in a bad and unnecessary punk number and Philip Sayer as a conger on canes singing "Soft Shoe Freak".

Coming back to the theatre Mr Schuman has brought some new footage. He has also brought a talent that is larger than the small screen makes it appear. With the aid of some of the most entertaining performers in London, including Little Nell, Mary Maddox and Guy Gregory, he has entertained the fringe. While I cannot say that I loved it down to Kong's last roar, much of it is monstrously enjoyable.

Deborah Kerr Denis Quilley

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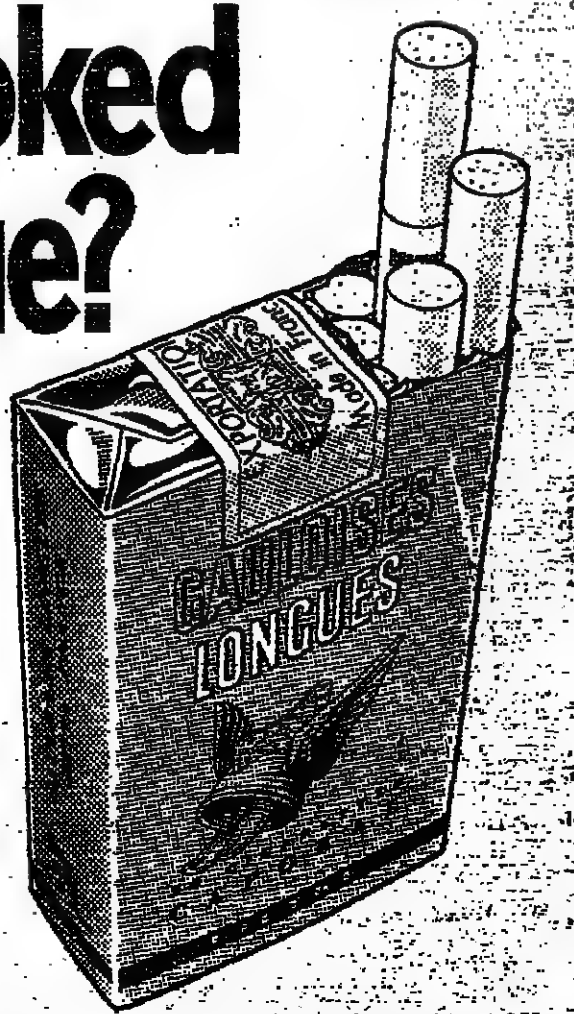
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PARLIAMENT, November 22, 1977

## Government policy to set example to private industry by holding public sector pay increases to 10%

House of Commons

Government determination to stick to a 10 per cent maximum increase in public sector wages was reiterated by the Prime Minister during question time. He also said that the improvement for a married man with two children from tax cuts was being equal to 6.5 per cent improvement in his gross pay.

Mr John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire, Lab) had asked the Prime Minister to discuss with the Governor of the Bank of England the instability of the international money markets and to agree that there was a need to control the speculative foodstuffs money which was causing the exchange and caused problems on the balance of payments.

Is it right (he asked) that the Government should be held to ransom by speculators?

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—The large volume of international foodstuffs funds causes problems and creates instability in the markets, but that is much easier to analyse than to control. That does not mean, however, that we cannot control it, we cannot indicate that it causes instability.

The best way forward is to get agreement on domestic policies which are internationally comparable.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnes, Con, Finchley, C)—Will the Prime Minister say whether, apart from productivity

deals, 10 per cent is the maximum figure for all wage increases in the public sector?

Mr Callaghan—This has been answered on many occasions in the past and the Chancellor has made clear that 10 per cent is the maximum in national earnings which would be acceptable in order to sustain inflation in single figures.

Conservative MPs—We have not got there yet.

Mr Callaghan—During the greater part of 1978, perhaps Conservative MPs will be waiting until I reach the end of my sentence.

There is little doubt that because of the great improvement in the retail price index and the rate of inflation over the last six months, inflation has been increasing by 3.4 per cent over the last six months.

I am not extrapolating that because to some extent the future rate will depend on the level of wage settlements, but we are able to foresee that we shall have single figure inflation during the next year and the Government aims to sustain that as the most solid foundation for economic progress.

Mrs Thatcher—So 10 per cent is the maximum figure, and therefore the Government will be free to negotiate with the NJC within cash limits.

Mr Callaghan—No, she is not correct. The Government have been pressed time and time again, both by Conservative MPs and by in-

dustry, to hold increases in the public sector within the 10 per cent limit. That is what we are doing.

Mrs Thatcher—First the Prime Minister says that 10 per cent is the maximum and then he says it is a maximum in the public sector? Which does he mean?

Mr Callaghan—She is capable of reconciling my two statements.

A Conservative MP—The two faces of Callaghan.

Mr Callaghan—They are reconcilable, that national earnings must be held within a 10 per cent limit and the public sector where there is little wage drift is Government policy to give an example to all those in the private sector calling upon us not to be some of whom I regret to say are giving way and show we are adhering to our own policy by not conceding more.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Teesdale, Thornaby, Lab)—One difficulty in getting disputes resolved is the bogus comparison between net and gross pay. Will he put a figure on the benefits which have accrued to workers as a result of tax cuts by the Government in recent years?

Mr Callaghan—Such a figure can be put on and I have been preparing it for a speech tomorrow morning. For a man on average earnings of £10,000 a year, the improvement resulting from tax cuts this year is equivalent to 6.5 per cent to gross pay in addition to anything else negotiated.

## Not a bad idea to repay some debt

Questioned about the Government's intentions in spending the income from North Sea oil, Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said there were occasions when it was not a bad idea to repay a little debt, but the general policy was that the revenues from North Sea oil should be used for long overdue rejuvenation of British industry.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid-Sussex, C) asked for an assurance to be given to the National Economic Development Council that revenue from North Sea oil would not be squandered.

Mr Callaghan—I have already begun discussions and we shall publish a paper which will carry out a further study. There is no need to give any such assurance to the NEDC because they would not dream of asking me such a soporific question.

Mr Norman Buchan (West Renfrewshire, Lab)—This revenue should be used to regenerate the areas of Britain which had been hit by the oil crisis, and which should be brought into the twentieth century.

Mr Callaghan—There are occasions when it is a bad idea to repay a little debt—(Conservative cheer)—but that should not detract from the general policy which is to use the revenues for the long overdue rejuvenation of British industry.

## MPs reject clause declaring that Scotland Bill does not affect unity of the UK

The sentence in Clause 1 of the Scotland Bill stating that it did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom was misleading and untrue, Mr Francis Pym, chief Opposition spokesman on devolution and House of Commons affairs, said when the committee stage of the Bill began.

He was moving an amendment to that sentence reading: "Nothing in these provisions shall be construed as impairing or in any way affecting the unity of the United Kingdom."

It was considered with other related amendments.

He said that no amount of discussion or argument since last January had removed from the House the impression that they were dealing with the unity of the United Kingdom. There was a tacit admission of that in the Bill by the inclusion of the clause.

The offending sentence was no more than a bland assurance. It appeared to be an attempt to give some degree of reassurance about the House's decision.

Reassurance was not possible and none was capable of being given. The most important way unity was going to be affected was through the impact of the Bill on the House of Lords.

Westminster MPs were not going to be able to vote on all matters and even worse one day which they were going to be able to vote in other parts of the United Kingdom. That remained the unpalatable reality.

Mr Gerard Vaughan, an Opposition spokesman on the social services (Reading, South, C)—There are different roles envisaged for the House in dealing with the United Kingdom business, a different type for each part of the country and a different type for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Mr Norman Buchan (West Renfrewshire, Lab)—The level of people on the waiting lists is now going down. It would be a good idea to give the House a role in dealing with the waiting lists.

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drawbacks and outdated procedures, and still have devolution. It was living in a dream world. It could not happen. It must be done.

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ment of Scotland inherent in the Bill, however unacknowledged, he said it was about some aspects of the Scottish question involved in the Bill. He said the assembly was a mechanism of adjustment towards a Scottish Parliament with substantial powers.

Mr Alex Fletcher, an Opposition spokesman on devolution (Edinburgh, North, C) said words did not count. It was the actions that counted. It was the actions that counted. It was the actions that counted.

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## Reducing the waiting lists for hospital beds

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services,



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# Why our social service volunteers deserve more official backing

The Wolfenden report published yesterday called for a stronger role for voluntary organizations. In this article Roger Hadley, who sat on the committee, and Stephen Hatch, its senior research officer, examine some of the report's more far-reaching conclusions.

Since the postwar attempt to establish a comprehensive system of statutory social services, successive governments have tended to ignore voluntary organizations or to give them only a walk-on part.

But the report of the Wolfenden Committee on Voluntary Organizations, published yesterday, contains ample evidence to show that instead of regarding them as a hindrance to the wings, voluntary organizations are making a large and growing contribution in identifying and meeting social needs.

The report attempts to prod central and local government into full awareness of what the voluntary sector is already doing, and challenges them to support and collaborate with it far more actively. But the underlying implications of the report are more significant than its specific recommendations, for they point towards a quiet revolution in the structure and dynamics of our social services, towards an alternative to state collectivism or the free market.

Whatever one's views about the desirability of a large-scale reversion to the free market, such a course must be preceded by the high cost of so many social services at the point of delivery. But at the same time, the limitations of a system that relies predominantly on statutory provision are becoming increasingly clear. It is right to go on concentrating development of the social services in this sector.

These doubts spring in part from growing awareness that the resources available for the

statutory social services are finite, that these services are often very expensive, and that there may sometimes be more cost-effective ways of meeting need. They are reinforced by recent evidence of diminishing productivity in the social services.

Bureaucracy easily becomes the whipping boy for all sorts of frustrations, but we would argue that the recent growth in size of so many social service organizations, and the associated strengthening of professional interest groups, does raise major problems for public control and responsiveness to the consumer—problems which will not be resolved by more of the same.

In sharper language, the current system stresses the dependence and passivity of the user or client. It obstructs the development of alternative forms of social service in the voluntary sector by allocating relatively tiny resources to it. And it reduces the opportunity of the citizen both to give service, and to exercise choice when he is seeking service.

Some of the current developments reported by the Wolfenden Committee raise the possibility of a radically different strategy. Perhaps the major growth point is in organized mutual aid: witness, for instance, the spread during the past decade of organizations for handicapped people like stroke victims and the hard of hearing, whose members consist predominantly of the handicapped themselves and their relatives.

As well as representing the consumer in pursuit of better statutory provision, such organizations provide, in the face of deprivation and often of stigma, support of a special quality obtainable from no other source.

Voluntary organizations recruiting their own workers directly are still the main vehicle for voluntary service. The

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two decades. But in recent years, and with the backing of the Government's Voluntary Services Unit, agencies like the Volunteer Centre and Community Service Volunteers and various local counterparts have been devising new ways of recruiting volunteers and new roles for them in the social services.

The full potential of these developments has still to be tested, but it does seem that there is plenty of scope for involving volunteers from outside the traditional and diminishing pool of middle class women not in employment. Since the average adult spends nearly 1,000 hours a year watching television, and

25 on voluntary work, a minor redistribution of leisure time activity could make a substantial impact.

It is part of the conventional wisdom that family and community are in decline, and that care provided informally through networks of neighbours and kin is diminishing. Undoubtedly there has been change, but there is plenty of evidence that informal systems of caring survive and remain extremely important. One of the more valuable functions of mutual aid groups is to reinforce the caring capacity of these informal networks, spreading the load and giving psychological support.

The Secretary of State's

Good Neighbour scheme represents an official attempt to reinforce informal caring but, without a more developed understanding of appropriate methods of intervention, it is more a hopeful pointer than a policy.

These then are indications of alternative directions. However, important constraints should be recognized. The voluntary sector is of its nature inconclusive in performance and uneven in coverage. A strong statutory framework will remain essential to safeguard standards and the equitable distribution of resources. Equally, support and resources will be required to help build up voluntary and informal

terms of care where they are now weak.

Nor is there yet the knowledge, or among relevant professionals sufficient sympathy to embark on a fully fledged alternative strategy. Nevertheless, it is possible to show how one might evolve.

Among professionals, particularly social workers, a change of role is needed, so as to place more emphasis on the mobilization of community support rather than the one-to-one service that typifies their work today. Among local authorities relationships with voluntary organizations are usually the product of historical accident, seldom of explicit policy.

They should be encouraged to follow the example of authorities like Islington which have embarked on a deliberate policy for community development and involvement. In central government what is needed are vigorous policies based on a more pervasive awareness of the potentialities.

The voluntary services unit is a small beginning. More ambitious developments should include funding for local social development as recommended by Wolfenden, through the medium of "animators" with the job of sparking off new organizations and backing up existing ones; experiments in combined voluntary and statutory action; substantial support for Age Concern and other voluntary organizations which have proved themselves; and policies deliberately aimed to strengthen natural communities.

It is time to challenge the assumption that the extension of statutory services is the best way of controlling the expression of collective endeavour in the cause of social welfare. The proper image of the social services is one of complementary, not of replacement.

Roger Hadley is Professor of Social Administration at Lancaster University and Stephen Hatch is Senior Research Officer and is now head of the Voluntary Organizations Research Unit.

Bernard Levin

## Ah, so that is what they mean...

As a lifelong collector of significant conjunctions, I was delighted to find the other day, in an unobtrusive paragraph, a specimen (in excellent condition) of that rare form of the Apparent Contradiction, "Americans". It read: "are using the post more and more, so stamp prices will not rise as fast in coming years as previously predicted."

So, Not "but", you notice, or "however", or even the neutral "and"; a full strength "so" links the fact that Americans are using the post more to the conclusion that the stamps they buy are cheaper than they might otherwise be.

The Apparent Contradiction will be apparent only to the British. Here, if we are told that more letters are being posted, we brace ourselves for the inevitable announcement of an increase in the price paid for posting them, and even for a massive campaign by the Post Office to persuade us to write fewer.

That is because of the well-

known Post Office principle that the best way of responding to an increase in the use made by the public of any of its services is to seek ways of reducing demand rather than increasing supply. The easiest way of doing that, of course, is to raise prices; the Post Office dreams of a day when the cost of a stamp will have reached infinity, and the number of customers nil; as the customers are well aware, satisfying progress towards achieving both these laudable intentions has been made in the last few years.

Now the Post Office is not alone in this attitude; if it were, I would hardly bother to bring the subject up. In fact, it typifies an entire range of prejudices and instincts in the commercial life of Britain which contrast strikingly with those of the United States and, increasingly, the rest of the world. America practises the precept that if you are in business to make money, it helps to find out what people want, and then sell it to them at a

price they can afford, and also to seek first to understand exactly what is being asked for, and to seek next a way of providing it. I have often asked in the United States for something that was either unknown there, or was known under a name unknown to me. The response has always been to try to elicit what I am talking about, and then to find something as close to the specification as possible. In Germany, this is taken still further; if you go into a restaurant—not just a cafe, but a real restaurant—and order only a bowl of soup and a glass of wine, they will not only serve it to you without demur; it will never occur to them to think your request is in any way odd. Nor, of course is it; they are there to sell you food, and what food of food they sell you depends only and entirely on your wishes in the matter. (And I have never, to my recollection, been refused service in a restaurant or cafe in Germany, Austria, France or Italy if the door was open and the lights on, whatever the hour of the day or night. I could not count the number of times I have entered a British establishment, and been met only with a snarl of "We're closed".)

What all this amounts to, of course, is the difference between the respective attitudes to competition held in Britain and the rest of the world. It can be seen with lumped clarity in the motorcar industry; the

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British driver having expressed a liking, by his purchases, for Japanese cars, large numbers of these are imported to meet the demand. It did not occur to the British manufacturers to meet their product more attractive to the customer; they simply squealed "unfair, unfair".

Mr Edmund Dell was sent to Tokyo to beg the Japanese to export fewer cars to Britain. The Japanese are a notoriously polite people, but even they must have been hard put to it to go on bowing and smiling when they were wanted to do was to throw him down the stairs.

It is no good saying that Britain is the nice place it is precisely because we are not imbued with the spirit of competition and hustle and push and ambition and commercialism. In the first place, since we live in an internationally competitive world, we have to sell our goods and services competitively, and cannot not turn ourselves into a kind of Gandhian peasant economy, with the good men of Didsbury, Handsworth and Claygate sitting before their semi-detached doors clad in dhurds and plying spinning-wheels. In the second place, we actually have all the worst forms of envy without any of its good effects. (Indeed, another example of what I am talking about, and that perhaps the most terrible of all, can be seen in the motorcar industry; the

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It is no good saying that Britain is the nice place it is precisely because we are not imbued with the spirit of competition and hustle and push and ambition and commercialism. In the first place, since we live in an internationally competitive world, we have to sell our goods and services competitively, and cannot not turn ourselves into a kind of Gandhian peasant economy, with the good men of Didsbury, Handsworth and Claygate sitting before their semi-detached doors clad in dhurds and plying spinning-wheels. In the second place, we actually have all the worst forms of envy without any of its good effects. (Indeed, another example of what I am talking about, and that perhaps the most terrible of all, can be seen in the motorcar industry; the

hitherto unknown demand, is to seek first to understand exactly what is being asked for, and to seek next a way of providing it. I have often asked in the United States for something that was either unknown there, or was known under a name unknown to me. The response has always been to try to elicit what I am talking about, and then to find something as close to the specification as possible.

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## Now Britain has decided the CAP does not fit

The longer Britain stays in the EEC the harder it becomes to find anyone in the country's food industry who has a kind word to say for the Common Agricultural Policy. It is the most comprehensive instrument used by the Community, because many of its effects are the same in each member state. Yet it baffles much of the population and frightens many who earn their living by it.

Two important points are usually lost in the bitter political arguments that centre on the policy itself. First, it is incomplete, and second, this country does not yet operate it fully. Important foods like potatoes are not yet covered by the policy while this country has until New Year's Eve to adopt its food prices, and institutions to those in the rest of the Community.

The policy would be hard to understand in an undistorted state. As it now stands it has different influences on different parts of the food industry which in turn make different responses to it. That makes it exceptionally hard to grasp.

The best way to picture its impact on the British food industry, without first assimilating a mass of technical detail, is to imagine what might happen if instead of a Common Agricultural Policy the Community had a Common Cultural Policy on the same scale.

Let the history syllabus of schools throughout the Community be decided by ministers meeting in Brussels, and let there be furious lobbying to influence the direction of the common syllabus. Let the European Commission make complicated recommendations about the ratio of words, pictures and white space in books to ensure that consumers are given value for money.

Let there be frequent and apparently unconnected complaints from unrelated cultural organizations about the interference of bureaucrats.

That illustrates the scale of what has happened to the British food industry. In the 1975 referendum campaign farmers and food processors joined in an aggressive pro-market drive in which the Common Agricultural Policy was portrayed as the key to food security for a country with a weak currency and exceptional dependence on imports.

In 1976 the processors became worried and then frightened by proposals for measures issued in Brussels. This year farmers have become apprehensive, too, as the Community has appeared to threaten marketing schemes that have brought stability to British agriculture. They are also much less enthusiastic about the second enlargement of the Community by three nations, now in prospect, than they were about the first, when this country joined.

Since condemnation of the policy in Britain has taken the form of a series of attacks on particular measures, the aims of uniformity and harmonization behind it have been lost. The policy therefore suffers because it is incomplete and obscure. A third essential point about it is that because it is about the way food is costed and bought, its fate is tied to that of a Community policy. Since no such thing operates the uniformity of EEC farm policy has had to be imposed on the separate and shifting monetary policies of nine member states.

There are now signs of an unusually united British onslaught on the excesses of the policy. It focuses, naturally, on "mountains" and "lakes" of surplus farm produce which the Community funds at enormous cost or sells at embar-

assingly low prices to non-members. The Community does not just pay for the purchase of surpluses, it pays for their storage as well. It estimates that storage of potatoes in a single year will cost over £100m while the price of keeping the beef "mountain" sheltered and cool is expected to exceed £100m.

The aim shared by many British reformers is to end rapid adherence to a policy of sustaining the livelihoods of farmers irrespective of its effect on other parts of the internal economy and without taking account of the state of food markets outside the Community.

The imminent British bread price rise is a case in point. Part of it is the direct result of a Community levy to protect internal growers of wheat against competition from outside. The levy must be paid even though the reason for buying outside this year is a shortage of the internal wheat of the type that the levy is supposed to protect.

In July two Conservative backbenchers, Mr Nick Buchanan-Smith and Mr Peter Mills, who is a farmer, wrote in a policy paper: "The producer cannot be able to produce any quantity at any price. This proposition is a limit should be set on the amount that the Community should offer to buy for storage at its full price and that a lower price should be offered for any surplus."

This week Professor John Marsh, Professor of Economics at the University of Aberdeen, made a similar suggestion in a paper published by the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at the University of Reading. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, commented in an unusually quick and detailed reaction that the idea was similar in principle to the view of the Government's advisers in the Common Agricultural Policy stocktaking exercise.

Mr Brian Hayes, Deputy Secretary in charge of farm policy in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday that the European Commission was beginning to adopt British views towards beef, which suffers from one of the most embarrassing surpluses in the Community.

Mr Hayes said that the commission had decided that "beef prices have been pitched too high in relation to pig and poultry prices, and too high for the good of the dairy sector. Beef prices have helped to make the dairy enterprise too profitable. Community stocks of skim milk powder are now equivalent to more than half of the total annual consumption of all member states together."

The reformists believe that change can be made without damaging agriculture. Even British farming unions admitted in a paper issued in September that "surplus production can impose a strain on Community funds and be a cause of discredit to the Common Agricultural Policy."

Any reform of the size and positioning of EEC prices will happen at the same time as complicated changes in the way in which the prices are worked out. Brussels prices are expressed in units of account to preserve the fiction that farmers in each member state receive the same price. The units are then translated into national currencies and the rate at which that is done is the "green" rate for each country.

Britain wants to make change in pricing a condition for change in money, a position that is opposed elsewhere in the Community. If either the whole Community or Britain with the other and exasperated governments turn their backs on the common ideal in agriculture to adjust internal anomalies that arise from it, the whole Community will face a new threat of dislocation.

Farming is an area in which the EEC can make one of its strongest claims to be a Community. If those who conduct the inevitable reforms of its farm policy stumble, it may never be justified in considering itself a common market.

Hugh Clayton

HERMÈS

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Boris Lamb



## The play's the thing in the house of cards

Small wonder foreigners think we are such an endearingly eccentric lot. To declare their new playing card officially open yesterday, Stanley Gibbons engaged the services of a man who confessed that he was a complete ignoramus on the subject of cards and who admitted, furthermore, that his experience of using them was limited to making up a four at bridge.

Still, Arthur Negus knows all there is to know about old things and, as many of the items for sale at the SG gallery in The Strand are indeed (15th century onwards), he was well qualified to advise incipient collectors that whatever it was they decided to amass, they should always seek out the best dealers.

The fifteenth century cards, an uncultured lot of 10 complete ones and two halves, are probably not a good choice for beginners. They are worth up to £2,500.

The house of cards is possibly the first permanent gallery of its kind in the world, and even if you are not in a buying mood, you will find much there to delight you.

I will not dwell upon the rude cards (predictably made in France), nor upon the tedious kings and queens. But I should mention the Kennedy pack, the title card of which carries the legend: "We have a new Jack of Hearts. The White House is now a Full House."



## Safety first

When something like this happens, we can be sure that the structure of Rhodesian society is well and truly crumbling.

The most elite boys' school in the country, Plumtree, is to be vacated and the whole scholastic body decanted into a "safe area", there to be merged with one of the best prestigious schools, Guinea Fowl. Little more than a scented row of tin shacks, forced out of an old RAF training school, Guinea Fowl represents the chillest end of nowhere.

## Many hands make light fingers

The curious disease of "weight lifting" is spreading across south Wales. I am told that the Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre is the latest in a line of establishments which have suffered the loss of weights from training rooms.

Apparently Maindy Stadium in Cardiff, the headquarters of the Cardiff Amateur Athletic Club, has long been plagued by the problem of weights loss (no diet intended) and has been searching for an explanation of this curious form of theft (though it cannot be correct to describe the perpetrators of this crime as "light-fingered", surely?).

My man on the spot believes that the thieves are just ordinary shoplifters who have diges-

ted quantities of anabolic steroids to condition themselves properly for this work. He also points out that the Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre is the latest in a line of establishments which have suffered the loss of weights from training rooms.

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## The men who cook for love

It all seemed deeply chavvinistic, but there it was on Monday night, the Bachelor Cook of the Year Finals at the Hyde Park Hotel, sponsored by the Daily Express, with wines (lots of them) from André Simon.

From 500 entrants, the lucky four emerged in the ballroom of the hotel, to be judged by Michael Barry (who is much more than a Crayfish Cook) and by the chef of the hotel, I thought, Brian Woodcock, a 30-year-old author, had the right idea when he arrived carrying his ingredients in a Gucci bag. His escape of turkey, however, did not carry the day and he was placed fourth.

Jeffrey Hyman, a salesman who is 28, cooked trout and talked too much, which is probably why he came third. Second place was awarded to Vincent Raven, also 28, and a violin teacher. Mr Raven told me that he always cooks in evening dress, because it turns his girl friend on. His chicken breasts in cheese and almond sauce looked stunning.

The Bachelor Chef of the Year is Marcus Rutherford, a chef, who is only 24 and did wonders with his dumplings, chicken. In his spare time (I am surprised he has any) he paints and has two of his works currently on show at the Law Society.



Think tank warfare: Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy and artist of note, has accepted an invitation to join the British Council's board. Nothing noteworthy in that, you might think. Then let me remind you that abolition of the council has been recom-

## No countdown

If the Rev Edward Shallicross Owen Jacobson were the kind of clergyman who delivered sermons, he would now be busy re-drafting his sermon for next Sunday, Advent Sunday.

But Mr Jacobson does not give sermons. He prefaces what he calls "happenings" because, as his wife told me, he is a somewhat trendy sort of clergyman. Next Sunday, however, looks like being a non-happening in his Cusworth church of St Peter's at Windrush. Unless he can get an Advent candle, that is.

Let me throw some light on the subject. The candle was to have been a vital part of his happening. It would have had divisions on it, so that Mr Jacobson could describe the countdown to Christmas.

In past year, No candle in Cirencester, or Cheltenham, or Gloucester. At Oxford, Mrs Jacobson was almost lucky. There was a suitable candle in a religious bookshop but the set price had not put a price tag on it and so the shop would not sell it.

Worshippers from Great Barrington, Little Barrington, Sherborne, Aldworth and Windrush itself will pack into St Peter's on Sunday. A good deed would shine in a naughty world if someone could come up with an Advent candle.

William McCull, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) was dismissed to see in the New Statesman an advertisement inviting applications for the post of IPSA's general secretary. Applying, the vacancy was at the Irish Institute of Professional Civil Servants.





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## THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

It may not always seem so, but the impulse to be of service is still a powerful one in our society. Medicine and most of the caring professions receive far more applicants for training than they can ever take on, and the main constraint on their growth is the problem of finding public funds to employ those who have been trained. Thousands of other people make their contribution as voluntary workers for charities or similar agencies. The number of small organizations has been growing rapidly for the past decade. After the creation of the welfare state it was for a time customary to regard their role as residual and perhaps diminishing, but more recently it has become clear that they have a distinctive and indispensable place in our social arrangements. The *Wolfeboro* report on their future, published today, traces their great variety of action and urges that fuller use be made of their potential.

Beveridge himself saw a continuing role for the voluntary sector in the welfare state principally as a moral force to set against the pursuit of gain. Its importance as a source of fulfilment for those involved will

always be great, but its more practical claims have become increasingly apparent. Welfare bureaucracies have proved themselves expensive and inflexible. Without a steady growth of national wealth they cannot offer more than a basic minimum of provision for the disadvantaged. By their nature they are in danger of reducing their beneficiaries to a state of passive anonymity.

Voluntary enterprise can often supply what the statutory services cannot. The most striking growth of new organizations has been among those where the categories they set out to help take an active part in the work and in voicing the needs of fellow-sufferers. Charities can experiment with forms of service which are novel or controversial, and help to make them publicly accepted. The scale of the human resources that can be tapped is indicated by the report's calculation that in many hours the voluntary organizations make at least as great a contribution as all the paid staff in local authority social services departments.

Central state aid to such organizations has doubled since

1970 (in cash terms, that is). A relatively small amount of assistance can have dramatic effects in enabling initiatives to get going, and at a fraction of the cost of providing a comparable service publicly. But it is not easy to channel subsidy in an efficient way without losing sight of accountability or imposing too many constraints. Voluntary action often develops in ways that take little account of the separate spheres of official departmental responsibility. The report stresses the crucial position of intermediate bodies like councils of social service in co-ordinating services and guiding effort towards neglected needs, and seeks additional support for them. But it accepts that such bodies could not also be government paymasters, and in general finds itself unable to offer any better arrangement than the present uneven mixture of central and local government support. The same deficiencies of public administration that make the voluntary contribution so distinctive and valuable also makes it difficult for government to supply the assistance that is needed.

It is possible to have a unitary state such as we have; it is possible, although in my view undesirable and in the United Kingdom impractical, to have a federal state; it is possible, although even more undesirable, to have four independent nations. But what you cannot have is a position in between the unitary state and the federal state.

## COMMON HISTORY OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

No meeting between the leaders of two neighbouring communist countries is likely to be followed by a frank revelation of their differences—not that, in the case of the meeting between China and Russia in 1969, in any case the visit to Peking by Mr. Le Duan, the Vietnamese leader, should not be analysed in purely communist terms. China and Vietnam are not merely neighbours: the history of Vietnam has been intertwined with China's, for one millennium when China ruled Vietnam followed by another when Vietnamese independence was asserted. But for all that millennium, too, Vietnam's rulers always acknowledged their obligations towards China.

This is the context in which the present admitted differences between them should be placed. There is the difference of world view created in the intervening years after the death of Mr. Mao. Kuo-fang resting the Maoist view of three worlds with the need to rally the second and third against the two super-powers in the first—the imperialists and the social-imperialists in the current jargon. Mr. Le Duan in reply found imperialism the only enemy and an alliance of socialist countries the best answer to it. In thanking his hosts for their aid during the Vietnam war he was willing to

include the Russians as allies— but in Moscow earlier this year he had given the Chinese their due too.

This difference of world outlook goes back many years and may now be less of an irritant than it was while the Vietnam war lasted. It is the national, vestal matters that may have taken most time in yesterday's talks. The widely scattered offshore islands in the South China Sea are claimed by China, by Vietnam and by the Philippines and all three countries severally occupy them. The doubtful rewards of guano and phosphate have long been downgraded by the gleaming prospect of oil. Will there now be a share-out?

Then there is the conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam, a problem for China as the only power with influence in Phnom Penh and no less embarrassing to Peking than the unseemly world reputation earned by their revolutionary ally. A third issue has been the attitude of both countries towards the non-communist countries of South-East Asia. Since the war ended in 1975 China and Vietnam have had good reason to coordinate their approach to a body such as Asean as well as to the individual governments.

Do such continuing differences explain the coolness that reports from Peking impute to the meet-

ing? If so, it is a studied and controlled coolness. The Vietnamese have had good reason to welcome the new leadership in China. A China concentrating on its economy and eschewing Maoist revolutionary extremism will be much more to their taste. They themselves have had to banish many revolutionary emotions in face of the urgent priorities of a devastated country. With the weakening of ideological conviction the importance of tradition is more likely to make itself felt.

It has been possible lately to detect in China's handling of South-East Asia at least a flavouring of the past in the tolerance, the readiness to mediate and to accept the responsibilities of a great power in the region. Even in Vietnam's case the country chafing with rage against imperialism when the war ended in 1975 has modified its views in these two years as its isolation has ended. Facing each other, both China and Vietnam may now find in their shared and long-ranging historical sense a context in which the events of the past two decades will assume a different proportion. What is sixty years of Soviet communism, or a century of French rule or a disastrous American intervention set against the length of their common past?

## TESTING TIME AT BELGRADE

A new phase is beginning at the Belgrade conference, which has been battling away since early October to keep life and purpose in the Helsinki agreement of 1975. Until now the thirty-five participating states of East and West have been concerned mainly with reviewing implementation of the agreement over the past two years. This has involved them in some acrimonious exchanges over human rights. While the western position may have been too strong for some and too weak for others the exchanges have served the valuable purpose of demonstrating that Helsinki has put human rights firmly on the agenda of détente. No East-West meeting can now avoid the subject. The Russian argument that discussion of the internal affairs of other countries amounts to inadmissible interference has not been accepted by the vast majority of participants. There have been open and specific criticisms which have gradually drawn the Russians into criticizing western practices. This has been rather optimistically welcomed by some western countries as representing the beginning of the constructive dialogue which the conference is supposed to foster.

But the conference now has to look to the future to see what can be done to renew and promote the purposes of the Helsinki conference, which was concerned not only with human rights but with the whole framework of European relations. There are now more than eighty new proposals on the tables of the various committees and there is a slight lull while they are being digested. Roughly a quarter come from the neutrals and non-aligned and the rest are divided between the Warsaw Pact countries and Nato and the Nine. The Warsaw Pact proposals are mostly rather

general and include unreal ideas already rejected by the West, such as that everyone should promise not to use nuclear weapons first, or that alliances should not accept new members (meaning Spain). They also include, for instance, Bulgarian ideas on promoting cooperation in sport and in the publication of encyclopaedias.

The western proposals are said by the Russians to be too technical. They are indeed detailed but they are aimed at promoting practical improvements, remedying specific grievances, and removing specific obstacles to East-West contacts. There is, for instance, a proposal for improving implementation of the Helsinki provisions requiring notification of military manoeuvres. States would notify manoeuvres below the existing threshold of 25,000 men and would also notify major military movements into or within the defined area. If agreed, this would be a significant contribution to mutual confidence. It has support among the neutrals and non-aligned, and also from Romania, but the Russians still seem undecided.

Other western proposals would, if accepted, give practical expression to human rights by removing a few more obstacles to the movement of people and information between participating states. Requirements for exit visas would be reduced and the price of travel documents, which is often high in communist countries, would be no more than the equivalent of one week's average wage. People wanting to marry citizens of other states would be provided with full information on procedure. States would intensify efforts to publish economic and commercial information. Telex and telephone services would be improved. Archives would be made more

easily available to scholars (restrictions still abound, and even the archives of Tsarist Russia are far from fully accessible). And so on, through page after page.

These are the nuts and bolts of East-West relations as they affect a lot of individuals. They need to be taken seriously not only for the sake of the individuals concerned but also because they have a cumulative effect on wider aspects of relations. It is one of the achievements of the Helsinki conference that it has forced all the participants to get down more earnestly to this sort of basic and essential work. But there are also wider and potentially more divisive issues. One of the most interesting and important of the western proposals is that participating states should undertake to respect the right of institutions, organizations and persons to assist governments in the task of ensuring the full implementation of the Helsinki agreement, including where necessary to point out instances of non-implementation. This is an attempt to win protection for those who invoke the agreement and for the various groups which have set themselves up in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe to monitor its implementation.

Several members of such groups are now in Paris, most notably Professor Yuli Orlov, Mr. Anatoli Shchegolev, and Mr. Alexander Ginzburg. Nobody knows what the Russians have in store for these people, or whether they have decided what to do with them. Their fate will, however, have a profound effect on the conference. It is obviously a particularly blatant defiance of the Helsinki agreement to persecute people for monitoring its implementation. Thus one of the severest tests of the Belgrade conference may yet lie ahead.

loans sampling is the only PLR method that is just to writers. 2. Loans sampling has been working satisfactorily in Sweden for 20 years. 3. A plan for loans sampling in Britain was drawn up and tested at a cost of £100,000 by the Technical Investigation Group. This body, which included librarians and (unpaid) writers, was set up by the Department of Education and Science. It sat for 15 months and published two reports. 4. These reports conclusively establish that loans sampling costs less than the alternative of subsidizing for lending right which writers have rejected. Since a group of Writers' Guild

## Publicising right

From Lord Wills and others. Sir, It is ironic that, on a day when Michael Foot reaffirmed the Government's commitment to publicising the right, the opponents of PLR who must be the most powerful anti-pressure group in Britain, demonstrated their determination to delay justice at any cost. The cost of their latest campaign in the works will, it seems from your report of November 16, be four and a half months of time and £30,000 of the public's money. The essential facts about PLR are already known. 1. All the national organizations of writers agree that

writers, including ourselves, sought a meeting with the Prime Minister in May, the Government has been exploring a non-stutory route to loans sampling PLR. A new and costly inquiry into facts already known and conclusions already demonstrated can only block that route. The new inquiry is not even scheduled to report until March. Meanwhile, public service will presumably continue to be exacted from writers without payment. Yours truly, WILLIAM MAUREN DUFFY, BRIGID BROPHY, Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 430 Edgware Road, W2

From Mr Patrick Montague-Smith. Sir, I do not agree with Mr George Hutchinson (November 19) in his descriptions of Princess Anne as Mrs Mark Phillips and Princess Alexandra as the Hon Mrs Angus Ogilvy are incorrect. I understand that it has been established that of the Royal Family's princely titles only that of the Prince of Wales is substantive. Other princely titles are officially called "titular dignities", corresponding to courtesy titles derived from peerages. As Princess Anne is a sovereign's daughter she has the titular dignity of a princess. Indeed this style was granted in 1948 to the children of the Queen as Princess Elizabeth, before her daughter's birth. This is of a higher rank than the courtesy style assigned to a Duke's daughter, ie, Lady Anne, which is superficially

## Devolution and the English

From Mr Iain Sproat, MP for Aberdeen South (Conservative). Sir, Your correspondent Mr J. D. M. Hardie (November 19) suggests that the problem of MPs for Scottish constituencies being able to vote on so-called English domestic matters, while MPs for English constituencies cannot vote on similar matters affecting Scotland, can be solved by MPs for Scotland not being allowed to vote on such matters in England as have been devolved to a Scottish Assembly in Scotland.

This solution, however, cannot work if such a solution were attempted you could easily have a situation where the British Government at Westminster could overrule the Scottish majority in Scotland and Wales could overrule the English majority in England. At the moment, but because these MPs from Scotland and/or Wales would not be allowed to vote on the domestic issues affecting England, the Government would be prevented from carrying out its own policies on such issues as they affect England—some 80 per cent of the United Kingdom.

This situation would clearly be intolerable for any government. On the other hand, it would be equally intolerable to have MPs from Scotland telling constituents in England how to run their affairs, while at the same time, from the same English constituencies would be powerless to tell the same Scottish constituents how to run theirs. It is an irreducible constitutional dilemma, which must be faced, and then ignored, as the Government proposes, is to introduce an unjust and unstable element into the government of the United Kingdom, which must lead to discontent, and consequently to a desire for secession.

It is possible to have a unitary state such as we have; it is possible, although in my view undesirable and in the United Kingdom impractical, to have a federal state; it is possible, although even more undesirable, to have four independent nations. But what you cannot have is a position in between the unitary state and the federal state.

## Criminal legal aid

From Mr B. T. Harris. Sir, I am afraid that Mr Montgomery Campbell (*The Times*, November 16) has misunderstood the Lord Chief Justice's criticisms of legal aid in criminal proceedings. Though we are concerned not so much with the grant of legal aid as with the control of expenditure once legal aid has been granted.

So far as I am aware, most courts in considering the grant of legal aid are guided by the principles laid down in the Report of the Departmental Committee on this subject (*The Widgery Report*, Cmd 2934). As the name implies, the Lord Chief Justice was chairman of that committee and he has said, I am sure, that the law suggests that those criteria are incapable of improvement. My own society, in its evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services has suggested changes which might be made in the criteria with a view to ensuring that public money is spent where it can do most good. This is quite a different matter from the abuse of legal aid once it is granted. The Lord Chief Justice has said that such abuses do occur and welcome the Lord Chief Justice's initiative in suggesting machinery for preventing them. What I do not accept is Mr Campbell's contention that transferring the grant of legal aid from the courts to the Law Society has any relevance at all to the sort of problems referred to by the Lord Chief Justice.

In fact, Lord Widgery's committee specifically looked at and rejected this suggestion for a number of reasons. In the first place they pointed out that an application for legal aid in criminal proceedings

poses entirely different questions from a similar application in civil proceedings. As the committee said, the question is not "has he a good case?" but "do the interests of justice require that he should be represented?" The weightiest argument against criminal legal aid being administered by the Law Society is that it is time. "The tempo in criminal cases," said the Report, "is much faster." The Law Society has said that they could overcome this by referring applications to a secretary in urgent cases.

As the committee said, it is urgent, but the committee dismissed the idea that the secretary would be more competent to deal with applications than a court or that the secretary would have power to grant legal aid in a case where a court was not satisfied that it was necessary.

Justices' clerks, to whom is delegated the burden of considering most applications for criminal legal aid are not concerned primarily with increasing or reducing public expenditure, but with ensuring that a criminal offence should be deprived of legal representation when he needs it. They believe that the administration of the system could be improved, but they can see no advantage and serious disadvantages in its being transferred from the courts to the Law Society.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully, B. T. HARRIS, Chairman, Legal Committee, Justices' Clerks' Society, 10, Hole Lane, London, W1P 6AA.

From Mr Ritchie-Calder. Sir, Now that it seems likely that assemblies will be set up in Scotland and Wales, part of the debate in both Houses of Parliament should concentrate on ensuring that these new bodies are truly representative of the wishes of the electorate.

I believe that only a system of proportional representation will give the assemblies the authority to speak for the people of Scotland and Wales and command the respect necessary in order for them to play an effective part in the better government of those countries. If we elect them by our present first-past-the-post lottery, it will almost certainly mean that one party will have more than one third of the vote will command a clear majority of seats. That would be the worst chattering present possible for the infant assemblies.

If democracy is to be seen to be done, a fair voting system must be adopted and it is up to all of my parliamentary colleagues, whether they support the principle of an assembly or not, to make sure that this is done.

Yours sincerely, RITCHIE-CALDER, Chairman, Scottish Campaign for a Representative Assembly, 166 High Street, Edinburgh, November 22.

From Mr M. M. Edwards. Sir, In an article in his article on Marxism in polytechnics (*The Times*, November 15), made an attempt to check with staff of the Middlesex Polytechnic the assertions made in the Gould Report, or to give the polytechnic members the opportunity to comment on them. As a result, the impression given of Middlesex Polytechnic is distorted. The 1975 advertisement mentioned in the Gould Report (quoted by Mr Bradley) went on to list the wide range of options available to students: geography, planning, psychology, economics and social work.

Mr Bradley states that no polytechnic taught sociology in 1960— but that no polytechnic was formed before 1966. Certainly the growth of degree level work in the public sector has been accompanied by diversification into the arts and social sciences. To imply something sinister in this is a carefully planned development is misleading.

On points of accuracy: 1. Middlesex polytechnic—one of the largest in the country—has 43 sociology staff, not 65.

2. Middlesex does not concentrate particularly on the social sciences—less than a fifth of our students are enrolled on social science courses.

3. The sociology of education course at Middlesex is not the one described by Mr Bradley.

Finally, your readers should be aware that most courses at Middlesex polytechnic, as at all polytechnics, are subject to rigorous inspection by the Council for National Academic Awards before being offered to students.

Yours faithfully, M. M. EDWARDS, Deputy Director, Middlesex Polytechnic, Hendon, NW4.

From Mr Wayne Eagling. Sir, The dancers of the Royal Ballet wish to refuse certain criticisms of our management made in *The Times* Diary on November 11.

Rehearsals are not "slapdash and haphazard" and particularly for the ballet *Les Noces* are meticulously conducted. This ballet is uniquely difficult to perform without error, a fact which is recognized by the number of extra hours allocated to its preparation. Yours faithfully, WAYNE EAGLING, Equity Deputy, Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2.

From Mr Patrick Montague-Smith. Sir, I do not agree with Mr George Hutchinson (November 19) in his descriptions of Princess Anne as Mrs Mark Phillips and Princess Alexandra as the Hon Mrs Angus Ogilvy are incorrect. I understand that it has been established that of the Royal Family's princely titles only that of the Prince of Wales is substantive. Other princely titles are officially called "titular dignities", corresponding to courtesy titles derived from peerages. As Princess Anne is a sovereign's daughter she has the titular dignity of a princess. Indeed this style was granted in 1948 to the children of the Queen as Princess Elizabeth, before her daughter's birth. This is of a higher rank than the courtesy style assigned to a Duke's daughter, ie, Lady Anne, which is superficially

## Refurbishing the SS image

From Mr C. D. Bellamy. Sir, Most of the recent correspondence on the Waffen SS seems to centre upon the question of whether they were either very brave soldiers or extremely cruel perpetrators of atrocities, as if the two were mutually exclusive. The lessons of history show, surely, that great courage is frequently combined with unbridled cruelty, either in the case of the Japanese in the last war, or of a great many medieval battles where a highly developed code of chivalry among certain participants was accompanied by the killing of the wounded and of prisoners—not worth ransoming, and by the horrific sucking of towns. The Romans, those great "civilizers" of mankind, were also an example. In the light of this it is understandable that a highly developed code of conduct based upon the assumption of their own inbred superiority, as was the case with the Waffen SS, should have led to extreme acts of courage and barbarism. The Waffen SS claim to have been purely fighting troops has some truth in it, but as has been pointed out, whereas some SS men were drafted directly from the army, others began their careers in concentration camps. Their indictment as a body at Nuremberg is perhaps a symptom of the difficulty in distinguishing the parts. The military SS was guilty of such atrocities as the Malmédy massacre, but was this not due principally to the initiative of Peiper, commanding the leading battalion of the Leibstandarte, who received orders to "spread a wave of terror" but misinterpreted them in a way that the command had not intended? Without wishing to "whitewash the SS" it is clear that a case can be made for certain units of it, and after a generation and a half we can afford the luxury of giving them a bearing.

Yours faithfully, C. D. BELLAMY, London SE House, 10, Mecklenburgh Square, WC1.

From Mr Jonathan Guinness. Sir, When, at the request of a mutual friend, I agreed to put up former SS Colonel Schulze-Knossens for a few nights, this was a purely private matter of no political significance. There was no sign that his presence here would be against public policy; on the contrary, he had been here before and appeared on The Frost Programme without anyone, turning a hair. He has been in the country since after the war, he has never been accused, let alone convicted, of any crime.

The opportunity to talk in private with Hitler's former adjutant aroused my curiosity, since my interest in concentration camps is as great as the next man's. I suspect that many of those who are now sounding off about this matter would have reacted in the same way.

I reckoned without the spectacular intransigence of the Government, as well as what can only be described as personal malice in some sections of the press. The first is the promotion of a picture book about the SS, which should have been something of a non-event, into a publicity man's dream, and no doubt ensured the sale of thousands of expensive copies. The second was the propaganda view, by innuendo that I am trying to help whitewash the SS.

I am as baffled as Mr Airy Neave by the pictures of the piled and pathetic corpses from the concentration camps, which I would add, by the well documented, though not unique—excesses in military operations in occupied Europe which were the direct responsibility

of the Waffen SS as a formation. These will always be the images which first spring to mind when the SS is mentioned. No literate person is going to be converted to Nazism by a pictorial history of the Waffen SS fighting units simply because it largely omits the atrocities, for these are common knowledge.

In fact there is a sense in which such a book can be considered salutary. By portraying the Waffen SS as ordinary people it rubs home the lesson that, in an appropriately historical political climate or in the desperation of total war, ordinary people can be made to commit atrocious acts. This is a constructive lesson to be drawn from the bitter tragedy of the Second World War. It hangs on complacently as if the SS belonged to some non-human race, nothing to do with us, is to decide a self awareness that is necessary if we humans are to guard against a dark side that is common to us all.

The fuss has been depressing because it has shown that many influential people in this country, right up to government level, are still fighting the last war. It is understandably easy, especially for members of the Jewish community to fall into this trap. They, in particular, should reflect that while the Waffen SS is permanently destroyed as an effective force, Soviet Communism with its outriders on the extreme left is not only a danger to the West in general, but also a danger to the Jews in particular. To divert attention from the pressing Communist danger to a fictitious Nazi one is to play into the hands of a powerful and ruthless enemy.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN GUINNESS, Osban Hall, near Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.

From Mr Hubert Meyer. Sir, We are the Waffen-SS officers, whose intended participation in the launching of a book about our formation has caused an objection in Parliament. Certainly we do not want to do anything in your country which would be against the law or cause embarrassment to the authorities, but we should like to express our disappointment that the proposal to put our point of view should be so heavily handedly disapproved. None of us has been convicted or even accused of any war crime, and in the atmosphere of retribution through which we lived after the war, it may be assumed that had there been any evidence against us we should certainly have been arraigned.

We joined the Waffen-SS as young men in the same way that English youth joined the Gurkhas, because it was an elite unit, which offered us the opportunity to join. There were thousands like us.

We believe that those units of the Waffen-SS, which fought honourably and bravely, as frequently would be the case, on the other side, deserve this regimental history, even if, like most regimental histories, it lays little stress on the negative aspect. There is no chance in the case of the Waffen-SS that the negative aspect will be forgotten, but if it is the truth it is not the whole truth. Truth is many sided, and the fact of our past traditions of freedom and objectivity would surely indicate that it be examined critically rather than subjected to a clumsy threat of suppression.

Yours sincerely, HUBERT MEYER, 5090 Leverkusenstrasse 18, West Germany.

From Sir Arthur Bryant, CH. Sir, Something close to ordinary men and women seems to be eluding the historians. It is not those soldiers, policemen, firemen and the like—who in their calling have, unlike the rest of us, to hazard life and limb in our service, should not, in the assessment of their lives, be treated as needs to be subject to the same considerations and competitive pressures as those whose economic value can be determined by the calculations of the market or enforced by the industrial muscle power. For otherwise these brave servants of the community can only make their economic needs felt by refusing to perform the sacrificial duties upon which we all depend for our safety.

The Government's praiseworthy fight against inflation notwithstanding, it is neither right nor wise to place them in such a position. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR BRYANT, The Close, Mylly Place, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Football violence. From Mr H. Leach. Sir, Could Mr Howells elaborate on the "wide and extensive powers" available to magistrates in respect of those hooligans over 17 not resident in the vicinity of Manchester or Greenwich, where the only two senior attendance centres in the country are available? Yours faithfully, HAROLD LEACH, Clerk to the Justices, Chelmsford Division, The Magistrates' Court, Chelmsford, Essex.

Wearing the OM. From Mr Franta Belsky. Sir, On the morning of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the Order of Merit Graham Sutherland recounted on the radio the problem he had the first time he wore the insignia and how someone advised him to use a safety pin to fix the ribbon to his braces at the back of his collar.

A piece of uncommon information came my way when I was researching Admiral Cunningham for my memorial sculpture in Trafalgar Square: The Usage of the OM is to wear it reverse up—obverse concealed, that is, showing the Sovereign's image and not the words "For Merit". Yours faithfully, FRANTA BELSKY, 12 Pembroke Studios, Pembroke Gardens, W8.

Royal Ballet rehearsals. From Mr Wayne Eagling. Sir, The dancers of the Royal Ballet wish to refuse certain criticisms of our management made in *The Times* Diary on November 11.



# Steve Biko on the quest for a true humanity

This essay by Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, who died while in police hands under interrogation on September 12, has been re-produced by the Christian Institute Trustees in London, as a tribute to his memory.



heart of this kind of thinking is the recognition by blacks that the most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed. If one is free at heart, no man-made chains can bind one to servitude. It is one's mind that must be free, and it is the mind of the oppressor as to make the oppressed believe that he is a liability to the white man. There is no doubt that the oppressed can do so to scare his powerful masters. Hence thinking along lines of Black Consciousness makes the black man see himself as being complete in himself. It makes him less dependent and more free to express his manhood. At the end of it all he cannot tolerate attempts by anybody to dwarf the significance of his manhood.

In order that Black Consciousness be used to advantage as a philosophy to apply to people in a position like ours, a number of points have to be observed. As people are already looking for an alternative, we have to examine and question old concepts, values and systems. Having found the right answers we shall then work for consciousness among all people to make it possible for us to proceed towards putting these answers into effect. In this process, we have to evolve our own philosophy and strategies to suit the need and situation, always keeping in mind our fundamental beliefs and values.

In all aspects of the black-white relationship, now and in the past, we see a constant tendency by whites to depict blacks as an inferior status. Our culture, our history and indeed all aspects of the black man's life have been battered nearly out of shape in the great collision between the indigenous values and the Anglo-Boer culture.

The first people to come and relate to blacks in a human way in South Africa were the missionaries. They were in the vanguard of the colonization movement to civilise and educate the savages and introduce the Christian message to them. The religion they brought was quite foreign to the black indigenous people. African religion in its essence was quite different from Christianity. We also believed in one God, we had our own community of saints through whom we related to our God, and we did not find it compatible with our way of life to worship God in isolation from the various aspects of our lives. Hence worship was not a specialized function that found expression one week in a secluded building, but rather it featured in our wars, our beer-drinking, our dances and our customs. Whenever Africans drank they would first relate to God by giving a portion of their beer away as a token of thanks. When anything went wrong at home they would offer sacrifice to God, and when they were in trouble they would turn to him and atone for their sins. This was our hell in our religion. We believed in the inherent goodness of man—hence we took it for granted that all people at death joined the community of saints and therefore merited our respect.

It was the missionaries who confused the people with their new religion. They scared our people with stories of hell. They painted their God as a demanding God who wanted worship or else. People had to discard their clothes and their customs in order to be accepted in this new religion. Knowing how religious the African people were, the missionaries stepped up their terror campaign on the emotions of the people with their detailed accounts of eternal burning, tearing of hair and smashing of teeth. By some strange and twisted logic, they argued that there was a scientific religion and ours a superstition—all this in spite of the biological discrepancy which is at the base of their religion. This cold and cruel religion was a threat to the indigenous people and caused frequent strife between the converted and the pagans for the former, having imbibed the false values from white society, were taunting and ridiculing those who defended the truth of their indigenous religion. With the ultimate acceptance of the western religion down went our cultural values.

While I do not wish to question the basic truth at the heart of the Christian message, there is a strong case for a re-examination of the religion. It has proved a very adaptable religion which does not seek to supplement existing orders but like any universal truth—to find application within particular situations. More than anyone else, the missionaries knew that not all they did was essential to the spread of the message. But the basic intention was to further their merely spreading the word. Their arrogance and their monopoly on truth, beauty and moral judgment taught them to despise native customs and traditions and seek to infuse their own new values into these societies.

Here then we have the case for Black Theology. While not existing as a separate Black Theology at length, let it suffice to say that it seeks to relate God and Christ once more to the black man and his daily problems. It was to describe Christ as a fighting god, not a passive god who allows a lie to rest unchallenged. It grapples with existential problems and does not claim to be a theology of absolutes. It seeks to bring back God to the black man and to the truth and reality of his situation. This is an important aspect of Black Consciousness, for quite a large proportion of black

people in South Africa are Christians still swimming in a mire of confusion—the aftermath of the missionary approach. It is the duty therefore of all black preachers and ministers of religion to save Christianity by adopting Black Theology's approach and thereby once more uniting the black man with his God.

A long look should also be taken at the educational system for blacks. The same tense situation was found as long ago as the arrival of the missionaries. Children were taught, under the pretext of hygiene, good manners and other such vague concepts, to despise their mode of upbringing at home and to question the values and customs of their society. The result was the expected one—children and parents saw life differently and the former lost respect for the latter. Now in African society it is a cardinal sin for a child to lose respect for his parent. Yet how can one expect a child to respect between child and parent when the child is taught by his know-all white tutors to disregard his family teachings? Who can resist losing respect for his tradition when in school his whole cultural background is summed up in one word—barbarism?

Thus we can immediately see the logic of placing the missionaries in the forefront of the colonization process. A man who succeeds in making a group of people accept a foreign concept in which he expertly makes progress in the particular field can only be evaluated by him; the student must constantly turn to him for guidance and promotion. In being forced to accept the Anglo-Boer culture, the blacks have allowed themselves to be at the mercy of the white man and to have him as their eternal supervisor. Only he can tell us how good our performance is and instructively each of us is pained to please this powerful, all-knowing master. This is what Black Consciousness seeks to eradicate.

As one black writer says, colonialism is never satisfied with having the native in its grip but it must turn to his past and distort it. Hence the history of the black man in this country is most disappointing to read. It is presented merely as a long succession of defeats. The Xhosa were thieves who went to war for stolen property; the Boers never provoked the Xhosa but merely went on "punitive expeditions" to teach the thieves a lesson. Heroes like Makana (early nineteenth-century Xhosa prophet, sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island and drowned while escaping in a boat) Refusal by blacks to accept the truth of his death led to the mythical hope of his eventual return who were essentially revolutionaries are painted as superstitious trouble-makers who lied to the people about bullets raining down from the Great nation-builders like Shaka are cruel tyrants who frequently attacked smaller tribes for no reason but for some seditious purpose. Not only is there no objectivity in the history taught us but there is frequently an appalling misrepresentation of facts that sicken even the uninformed student.

Thus a lot of attention has to be paid to our history if we as blacks want to stand on our own coming into consciousness. We have to rewrite our history and produce in it the heroes that formed the core of our resistance to the white invader. More has to be revealed and stress has to be laid on the successful nation-building attempts of men such as Shaka, Moshesho and Hlontsa. [Famous tribal chieftains of, respectively, the Xhosa, Basotho and Tswana.] These areas call for intense research to provide some sorely needed missing links. We would be too naive to expect our conquerors to write unbiased histories about us but we have to destroy the myth that our history starts in 1652, the year Van Riebeeck landed at the Cape.

Our culture must be defined in concrete terms. We must relate the past to the present and demonstrate the historical evolution of the modern black man. There is a tendency to think of our culture as a static culture that was arrested in 1652 and has never developed since. The return to the "bush" concept suggests that we have nothing to boast of except lions, sex and drink. We accept that when colonization sets in it devalues the indigenous culture and leaves behind a bastard culture that may thrive at the pace allowed by the dominant culture. But we also have to realize that the basic tenets of our culture have largely succeeded in withstanding the process of bastardization and that even at this moment we can still demonstrate that we appreciate a man for himself. Ours is a true man-centred society whose sacred tradition is that of sharing. We must reject, as we have been doing, the individualistic cold approach to life that is the cornerstone of the Anglo-Boer culture. We must seek to restore to the black man the great importance we used to give to human relations, high regard for people and their property and for life in general; to reduce the triumph of technology over man and the materialistic element that is slowly creeping into our society.

These are essential features of our black culture to which we must cling. Black culture above all implies freedom in our part to innovate without recourse to white values. This

innovation is part of the natural development of any culture. A culture is essentially the society's composite answer to the varied problems of life. We experience new problems every day and whatever we do adds to the richness of our cultural heritage as long as it has man as its centre. The adoption of black theses and drama is one such important innovation which we need to encourage and to develop. We know that our love of music and rhythm has relevance even in this day.

Being part of an exploitative society in which we are often the direct objects of exploitation we need to evolve a strategy towards our economic situation. We are aware that the blacks are still colonised even within the borders of South Africa. Their cheap labour has helped to make South Africa what it is today. Our money from the townships takes a one-way journey to the white banks, and all we do in our lives is pay the white man either with labour or in coin. Capitalistic exploitative tendencies, coupled with the very arrogance of white racism, have conspired against us. Thus in South Africa now it is very expensive to be poor. It is the poor people who stay in the townships and therefore have to spend more money on transport to come and work for white people; it is the poor people who are unemployed and who therefore have to spend more money on food because of the refusal of a white man to install electricity in black areas; it is the poor people who are governed by many ill-defined restrictive laws and therefore have to spend money on fines for "technical" offences; it is the poor people who have no hospitals and are therefore exposed to exorbitant charges for private medical care; it is the poor people who use untarred roads, have to walk long distances, and therefore experience the greatest wear and tear on "commodities like shoes"; it is the poor people who have to buy their children's books while whites get them free. It does not need to be said that it is the black people who are poor.

We therefore need to take another look at how best we can use our economic power, little as it may seem to be. We must seriously examine the possibilities of establishing business co-operatives whose interests will be ploughed back into community development programmes. We should think along such lines as the "buy black" campaign once suggested in Johannesburg and establish our own banks for the benefit of the community. Organizational development among blacks has only been slow because we have allowed it to be. Now that we know we are on our own, it is an absolute duty for us to fulfill these needs.

The last step in Black Consciousness is to broaden the base of our operation. One of the basic tenets of Black Consciousness is totality of involvement. This means that all blacks must sit as one big unit, and no fragmentation and distraction from the mainstream of events be allowed. Hence we must resist the attempts by protagonists of the Bantustan theory to fragment our approach. We are oppressed not as individuals, nor as Zulus, Xhosa, Vendas or Indians. We are oppressed because we are black and must use that very concept to unite ourselves and to respond as a cohesive group. We must cling to each other with a tenacity that will shock the perpetrators of evil.

Our preparedness to take upon ourselves the cudgels of the struggle will use us through. We must remove from our vocabulary completely the concept of fear. Truth must ultimately triumph over evil and the white man has always nourished his greed on the black community. Special Branch agents will not turn the lie into truth, and one must ignore them in a true bid for change we have to take off our coats, be prepared to lose our comfort and security, our jobs and positions of prestige, and our families, for just as it is true that leadership and security are mutually incompatible, a struggle without casualties is no struggle. We must realize that prophetic cry of black students: "Black man, you are on your own!"

Some will charge that we are racist but these people are using exactly the values we reject. We do not have the power to subjugate anyone. We are merely responding to provocation in the most realistic possible way. Racism does not only imply exclusion of one race by another—it always presupposes that the exclusion is for the purpose of subjugation. Blacks have had enough experience as objects of racism not to wish to turn the tables. While it may be relevant now to talk about black in relation to white, we must not make this our preoccupation, for it can be a negative exercise. As we proceed further towards the achievement of our goals let us talk more about ourselves and our struggle and less about whites.

We have set out on a quest for true humanity and some-where on the horizon we can see the glittering prize. Let us march forth with courage and determination, drawing strength from our common plight and brotherhood. In time we shall be in a position to bestow upon South Africa the greatest gift possible—a more human face.

First published in a book of essays entitled *Black Theology: the South African Voice* edited by Basil Moore and published by C. Hurst, London.

is perhaps fitting to start examining why it is necessary for us to think collectively about a problem we never stated. In doing so, I do not wish to concern myself unnecessarily with the white people of South Africa, but to get to the right answers we must ask the right questions: we have found out what went wrong—here and when; and we have found out whether our position is a deliberate creation of an artificial fabrication of the truth by power-hungry people whose motive is authority, security, wealth and control of barrier between blacks and whites so that the whites could enjoy privileges at the expense of blacks and still feel that they are giving a moral justification for the obvious exploitation that tricked even the hardest of white consciences. However, tradition has it that whenever a group of people has tasted the lovely fruits of wealth, security and prestige it begins to find it more comfortable to believe in the obvious and to accept it as normal that it alone is entitled to privilege.

In order to believe this, it needs to convince itself of all the arguments that support the lie. It is not surprising, therefore, that in South Africa, after generations of exploitation, white people in the whole have come to believe in the inferiority of the black man, so much that while the race problem started as an offshoot of the economic greed exhibited by white people, it has now become a serious problem on its own. White people now despise black people, not because they need to reinforce their attitude and so justify their position of privilege but simply because the black man believes that black is inferior and bad. This is the basis upon which whites are working in South Africa, and it is what makes South African society racist.

The racism we meet does not only exist on an individual

basis—it is also institutionalized to make it look like the South African way of life. Although of late there has been a feeble attempt to gloss over the overt racist elements in the system, it is still true that the system derives its nourishment from the existence of anti-black attitudes in society. To make the lie live even longer, blacks have to be denied any chance of accidentally proving their equality with white men. For this reason there is job reservation, lack of training in skilled work, and a tight orbit around professional possibilities for blacks. Stupidly enough, the system turns back to say that blacks are inferior because they have no economists, no engineers, etc., although it is made impossible for blacks to acquire these skills.

To give authenticity to their lie and to show the righteousness of their claim, whites have further worked out detailed schemes to "solve" the racial situation in this country. Thus a pseudo-parliament has been created for "Coloureds" and several "Bantu states" are in the process of being set up. So independent and fortunate are they that they do not have to spend a cent on their defence because they have nothing to fear from white South Africa which will always come to their assistance in times of need. One does not, of course, fail to see the arrogance of whites and their contempt for blacks, even in their well-considered modern schemes for subjugation. The overall success of the white power structure has been in managing to bind the whites together in defence of the status quo. By skillfully playing on that imaginary bogey—apartheid—blacks and whites have managed to convince even diehard liberals that there is something to fear in the idea of the black man assuming his rightful place at the helm of the South African ship. Thus after years of the familiar voice of Alan Paton saying, as far away as London: "Perhaps apartheid is worth a try." At whose expense, Dr. Paton? asks an intelligent black journalist. Hence whites in general reinforce each other even though they allow some moderate disagreements on the details of subjugation schemes.

There is no doubt that they do not question the validity of white values. They see nothing anomalous in the fact that they alone are arguing about the future of 17 million blacks—in a land which is the natural backyard of the black people. Any proposals for change emanating from the black world are viewed with great indignation. Even the so-called Opposition, the United Party, has the nerve to tell the Coloured people that they are asking for too much. A journalist from a liberal newspaper like *The Sunday Times* of Johannesburg describes a black student—who is only telling the truth—as a militant, impatient young man.

It is not enough for whites to be on the offensive. So immersed are they in prejudice that they do not believe that blacks can formulate their thoughts without white guidance and tutelage. Thus even those whites who see much wrong with the system make it their business to control the response of the blacks to the provocation. No one is suggesting that it is not the business of liberal whites to oppose what is wrong. However, it appears to us as too much of a coincidence that liberals—few as they are—should not only be determining the *modus operandi* of those blacks who oppose the system, but also leading it, in spite of their involvement in the system.

To us it seems that their role spells out the totality of the white power structure—the fact that though whites are our problem, it is still other whites who want to tell us how to deal with that problem. They do so by dragging all sorts of red herrings across our paths. They tell us that the situation is a class struggle rather than a racial one. Let them go to van Tonder (Derogatory reference to the average Afrikaans-speaking farmer) in the Free State and tell him this. We believe we know what the problem is, and we will stick by our findings.

I want to go a little deeper in this discussion because it is time we killed this false political coalition between blacks and whites as long as it is set up on a wrong analysis of our situation. I want to kill it for another reason—namely that it in general reinforces each other even though they allow some moderate disagreements on the details of subjugation schemes.

great future for which no one in these groups seems to be working particularly hard.

The basic problem in South Africa has been analysed by liberal whites as being apartheid. They argue that in order to oppose it we have to form non-racial groups. Between these two extremes, they claim, lies the land of milk and honey for which we are working. The thesis, the antithesis and the synthesis have been mentioned by some great philosophers as the cardinal points around which any social revolution revolves. For the liberals, the thesis is apartheid, the antithesis is non-racism, but the synthesis is very feebly defined. They want to tell the blacks that they see integration as the ideal solution. Black Consciousness defines the situation differently. The thesis is in fact a strong white racism and therefore, the antithesis is a strong solidarity among the blacks on whom this white racism seeks to prey. Out of these two situations we can therefore hope to reach some kind of balance—a true humanity where power politics will have no place. This analysis spells out the difference between the old and new approaches. The failure of the liberals is in the fact that their antithesis is already a watered-down version of the truth whose close proximity to the thesis will nullify the purported balance. This accounts

The concept of integration, whose virtues are often trotted in white liberal circles, is full of unquestioned assumptions that embrace white values. It is a concept never defined by whites and never examined by blacks. It is based on the assumption that all is well with the system apart from some degree of mismanagement by irrational conservatives at the top. Even the people who argue for integration often forget to veil it in its supposedly beautiful covering. They tell each other that, were it not for job reservation, there would be a beautiful market to exploit. They forget they are talking about people. They see blacks as additional levers to some complicated industrial machine. This is white man's integration—an integration based on exploitative values. It is an integration in which black will compete with black, using each other as rungs on a step ladder leading them to white values. It is an integration in which the black man will have to prove himself in terms of these values before meriting acceptance and ultimate assimilation, and in which the poor will grow poorer and the rich richer in a country where the poor have always been black. We do not want to be reminded that it is the indigenous people, who are poor and exploited in the land of our birth. These are concepts which the Black Consciousness approach wishes to eradicate from the black man's mind before our society is driven to chaos by irresponsible people from Cocopas and hamburger cultural backgrounds.

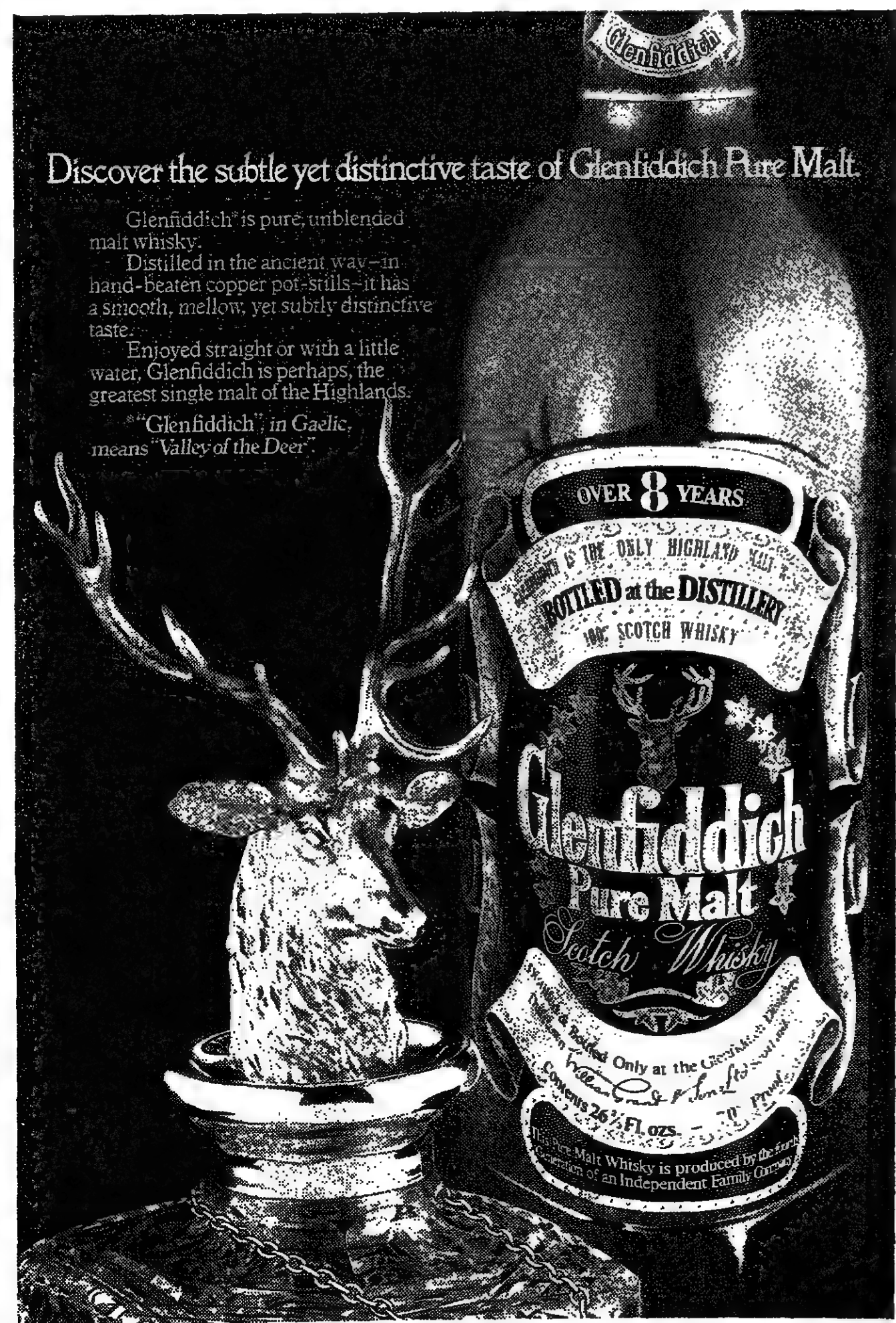
Black Consciousness is an attitude of mind and a way of life, the most positive call to emanate from the black world for a long time. Its essence is the realization by the black man of the need to rally together with his brothers around the cause of their oppression—the blackness of their skin—and to operate as a group to rid themselves of the shackles that bind them to perpetual servitude. It is based on a self-examination which has ultimately led them to believe that by seeking to run away from themselves and emulate the white man, they are insulting the intelligence of whoever created the black. The philosophy of Black Consciousness therefore expresses group pride and the determination of the black to rise and attain the civilized self. Freedom is the ability to define oneself with one's possibilities held back not by the power of other people over one but only by one's relationship to God and to natural surroundings. On his own, therefore, the Black Man wishes to explore his surroundings and test his possibilities in other words to make his freedom real by whatever means he deems fit. At the

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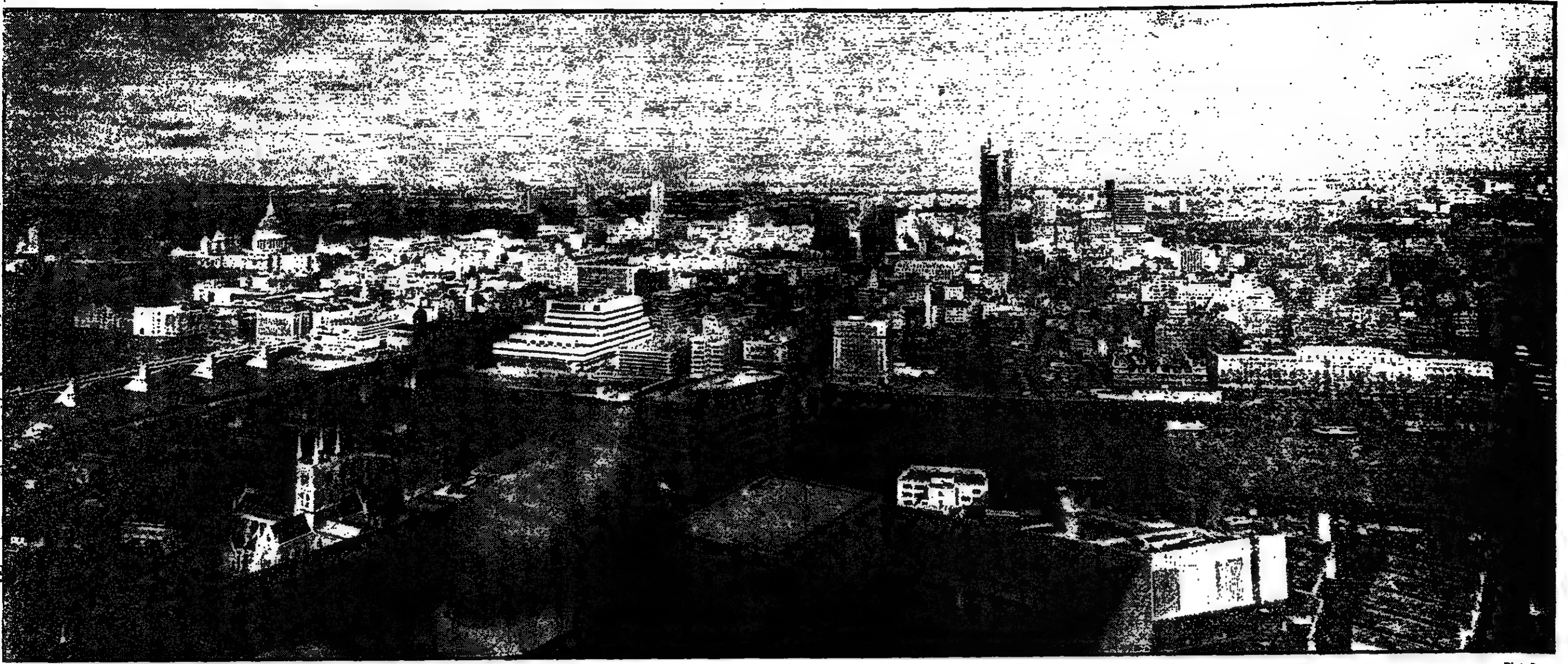






# THE CHANGING CITY

a Special Report on London's  
financial Square Mile  
and its future



Phil Sayer

## Durable symbol of a talent for markets

by George Cyriax

On the long view appropriate to this survey, the City—shortland for the service offered by the financial district of London—ranks as one of Britain's strongest and most durable institutions.

Figures give at best only half the answer for this, which has more to do with history and character. The British have a natural aptitude for markets, for setting

them up and making them work. The French *hôtel de ville*, standing at the hub of radiating avenues, is the creation of an essentially logical mind and culture.

The markets that the British have created, wherever they have gained economic influence, reflect a pragmatic view that, within limits, people of good will should be left to determine the allocation of resources by themselves. Largely unplanned, often actively anti-intellectual, these British market-places are the envy of those

who have tried, and normally failed, to imitate them. The main embodiment of the British talent for markets is the City, standing as it does at the centre of world activity in investment, insurance, banking, short and medium-term money flows, shipping and commodity trading. Events have disproved the proposition that the City's position in these markets had to do with fortunate historical accident.

In the 1950s, it might have been possible to argue that Britain's banking role rested on the use of sterling as a reserve currency: that its insurance and reinsurance business was vulnerable to the rise of other centres after their rebuilding after 1945 and that the use of London markets as price-setters for a wide range of commodities would soon be superseded by arrangements between big producers or by commodity cartels. In Britain's production of goods, this vulnerability to the tide of events has been only too clear.

But the City's market in banking funds is now firmly based on intermediation in dollars rather than coining. Its insurance—and even more reinsurance—leadership is unchallenged, and price cartels, with certain notable exceptions, have rarely proved as durable as the market pricing in London they were meant to replace. There has been some erosion, and certainly more competition from the United States, but the strategic position of the London markets into the 1970s has mostly been held.

Figures show this, through the useful analysis of Britain's invisible (that is service) account in the balance of payments conducted by the Committee on Invisible Exports. In 1976, the City's services earned net foreign exchange of £1,700m, so providing a vital offset against the chronic deficit on Britain's trade in goods. In this surplus, the largest net earner (£740m) was insurance and insurance broking. This was followed, in descending order, by banking (£408m), commodities (£201m), the Baltic Exchange (£147m) and various other forms of brokerage.

On a wider plane, Britain was the world's second largest invisible earner in 1976 (after the United States) and the most dependent of all the larger industrial countries on invisible receipts within its total balance of payments. Taking financial and commodity services alone, Britain's surplus was greater than the net earnings of all other EEC countries combined, even before taking account of the large deficit of Western Germany in this sector.

As one looks ahead to the future, the City's strength has been in innovation, which is just as difficult a matter in the provision of services as in the manufacture of goods. Two factors have been, and will remain, predominant in forcing innovation on the City—inflation (and the saving it has given to sterling) and scale.

Scale has had an equivalent impact in other City markets. Insurance and reinsurance of gigantic risks, such as jumbo jets and North Sea oil rigs, has meant stretching and adapting traditional procedures and forms of contract so that unprecedented levels of catastrophe can be handled. The scale of international money markets has led to significant innovation in communications and dealing ability, for example by way of the Reuters Monitor screen.

With all these strengths, where are the wars which will be making the future less easy than the past? The intellectual critique of the City has been slow to materialize and consistently lacking in good policy ideas, but it has finally come to rest in two main areas—the instability of the City's operations introduced into the conduct of economic management ("stop-go") and the gross undervaluation of investment in domestic industry which is created by the international orientation of most British financial institutions.

Of these two areas of weakness, my judgment—and it can only be that—is that criticism of the City's financial institutions is the more

justified. will be more long-lasting and will have a more profound impact on performance and policy over the rest of the century. In truth, it is hard to take the attack on the City as a destabilizer of economic management very seriously, if only because the Bank of England has the weapons at its disposal to deal with this problem if it chose to use them.

But the confused policy objectives of many financial institutions, the lack of imagination they show in the fashioning and pricing of their services and above all the inadequacy that is becoming evident in the types of intermediation they offer between savings and investment in the domestic market are clear and worrying.

How, for example, are the 50 odd big pension funds going to reinvest a cash flow which has already reached £6,500m a year and which is forecast to reach £20,000m by 1985. By bidding up the secondary market in a 100-odd company securities against themselves?

Where is the social purpose in this, to replace the role of private entrepreneurs whose savings they have replaced? More fundamentally, what is meant by the ownership of industry when shares are held by insurance companies and pension funds (often of nationalized industries) which, for perfectly respectable reasons, do not wish to intervene in management except under extreme circumstances?

And what about the banks, often overmanned and overbranched, whose managers only as an exception grasp the ideas put forward to the Wilson committee by the American Bankers Association of London—"the going-concern approach to leading which concentrates on customer's cash flow and management ability, rather than the liquidation approach which focuses on asset based security?"

Bank attitudes alone hardly account for British industry's slow growth, its reluctance to borrow medium term to finance investment, its unwillingness in many areas to enter a serious dialogue with lenders. But bank prejudice and practice are very real factors.

Here then is where new ideas are going to be needed if the City's markets are to maintain their vitality. Should pension funds provide more money for housing, as in Holland? What then should be their relationship to building societies? How should banks restrain and reorganize their branch network when the pace-setter seems already to be emerging as Barclays?

Above all, how are all these lending institutions to make contact with a wider spectrum (in social as well as income terms) of domestic savers and entrepreneurs to make a greater contribution to economic welfare and the wise use of the benefits of North Sea oil. It is a challenge worthy of the City's fine tradition.

The author is a director of Gower Press, economic and business publishers.

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by Christopher Wilkins

The Stock Exchange is no stranger to criticism from without. For years it has grown used to living with allegations from unsympathetic outsiders that it is nothing more than a casino, or, even worse, that it is a casino where only those on the inside have a chance of winning.

Such claims are far from dead, although the exchange has been moving some way towards countering this latter complaint by tightening up on its own internal regulatory structure. But it is now having to face up to a potentially much more damaging threat to its traditional style of operation because it comes from within, from among those who are fundamental supporters of what the Stock Exchange stands for.

At issue is the whole nature of the system under which shares are traded in the stock market. Basic questions are being asked about the jobbing and broking system, unique to Britain, focusing on whether the system can survive for much longer in its present form.

The essence of the British system for buying and sell-

ing shares is that it draws a distinction between principals and agents. At one time there was some merging of the two functions on provincial stock exchanges, but the consolidation of all the exchanges into one has created a structure under which brokers, acting as agents for clients, and jobbers, acting as principals and making a market in shares, are for-

bidden to perform both functions at once. Recently it has become increasingly clear that this system can impose strains, particularly upon the jobbers. The number of jobbing firms has fallen from 100 in 1960 to 20 now, the reduction being highlighted by the proposal in August of two of the big five firms, Smith, Bishop, and Bischoff, to merge.

The Stock Exchange made no secret of its regret at the deal, but was equally obliged to accept the facts of life and duly gave its approval. However, only shortly afterwards it announced the setting-up of a committee to look into the future of the jobbing system. At the same time the Government has opened the way to an investigation of the system by referring the matter to the Monopolies Commission.

The question of competition, and whether there are now enough jobbers to make a proper market, is one issue to be looked at, although the jobbers themselves argue that reduction in the number of firms has not brought a reduction in competitiveness. More fundamental is the question of how well equipped the jobbing system is to withstand a market increasingly dominated by institutions and in which international share trading is assuming growing importance.

Successful jobbing depends essentially upon contrary thinking among investors. When there are many investors, all reaching different decisions on buying and selling, it is fairly straightforward for jobbers to adjust their long and short positions according to the way they see the market moving. Their problems arise when there is sudden, violent movement, all going the same way.

Such was the case at the end of July when the severing of the link between the pound and the dollar was seen by investors as the occasion for heavy buying of shares. Because during the subsequent week there was so much buying and so little selling regardless of the rise in prices, the jobbers, who were short of stock at the outset, found it almost impossible to get the stock needed to keep pace. At the time the *Financial Times* index rose by more than 100 points in six weeks, the

jobbers as a whole almost certainly lost money on their equity trading. Arguably the only way jobbers could be expected to cope in such circumstances would be for them to hold larger books but that would in turn require them to have much bigger capital to cover the enlarged risk. The issue of whether jobbers are undercapitalized is thus a central one.

The other main area in which the future of the jobbing system is under review is in the international equity markets. During the past two or three years British jobbers have watched, with a growing sense of frustration, the progressive appropriation of their foreign business by the big American brokerage houses. The American broking system, unlike the British, operates on a "dual capacity" basis, that is, a firm can both make a market and act as an agent for buyers and sellers.

To a large extent jobbers blame the loss of business on the rule requiring British investors to surrender 25 per cent of the dollar premium when they sell overseas securities. The resultant drop in international business earlier this year prompted Smith Brothers, London's sole jobber in gold shares, unsuccessfully to seek to broaden its trading base by obtaining Stock Exchange permission to deal

directly in gold shares with some non-member firms such as American brokers.

The success of the foreign brokers in taking a rising share of the market in which London has traditionally been so strong has inevitably raised the question of whether British jobbers are at a fundamental competitive disadvantage by not having dual capacity status.

It is not only the jobbing system which has come under the microscope, however. At the beginning of this month the Office of Fair Trading revealed that it was starting a major investigation into the working of the Stock Exchange which, besides looking into the separation of the broking and jobbing systems, will concentrate also on the operation of whether fixed brokerage commissions operate as an undesirable restrictive practice.

The Stock Exchange is vigorously opposed to any change in the present system, pointing out that it fixed commissions, abolished the British market will inevitably go the way of the American market, where the advent of negotiated rates two years ago created a serious financial crisis for many small brokers and a significant reduction in their number.

The author is Deputy Financial Editor, *The Times*.

## Exchange faces challenge from within



## Test for banks' ability to survive

by Ronald Pullen

For a business that has always preferred to do things in its own way and at its own usually restrained pace, the British banking system has had to cope in the past decade with more changes than any other industry. It has had to face deep-seated changes in the way it operates to last most clearing banks a lifetime. Even so, the banking system is likely to see just as many changes in the years to come. They may be more subtle than such radical changes as the competition and credit control policy introduced in 1971 or even the implications of publishing the clearing banks' profits for the first time which forced the clearers to pay much closer attention to earnings. But they will nevertheless test both the clearing and merchant banks' "protean capacity to survive".

The nature of the challenges that are likely to stimulate change, however, will be rather different from those prevailing in the 1960s. Then the clearers in particular came under attack from various quarters—not least from Lord Cromer when Governor of the Bank of England, the old Prices and Incomes Board and the Monopolies Commission—whose common refrain was that the banks were in one way or another leading a sheltered existence. And indeed, prevented from competing on interest rates, the clearers did to a large extent lead a comfortable life on the back of the generally high level of Bank rate prevailing during the period.

But the competitive climate has become much hotter in the 1970s, and while the clearers have managed to

consolidate their position as the fulcrum of the financial system they are having to run considerably faster to stand still. For the most part this has resulted in a rapid expansion of ancillary financial services such as hire purchase, leasing, factoring, insurance and fund management. By, perhaps even more importantly, it has meant a considerable expansion of the clearers' overseas interest—either, like Lloyds and Barclays, by using an existing fairly disparate overseas operation, or like Midland, which has preferred to buy its way into foreign banking groups.

The demands of the international trust will in all probability continue to occupy a lot of management time, since despite building up their retail operations abroad the British clearers still have to make the same impression in the fast-growing Eurocurrency markets as their Swiss or German counterparts.

At home, however, the clearing banks could well find the next few years a time of more defensive change. Most fundamental is the whole structure of their branch network, which grew in the 1960s as a result of the bank mergers that took place then and the fact that the growth of branches, and so of deposits, were the only yardstick for performance while the banks refused to disclose their true profits. Now, in a period when interest rates are low and could well remain so with North Sea oil, the cost-effectiveness of this network is increasingly difficult to justify. But the branch system is just one area where the banks are looking closely at cutting costs. In an increasingly unionized industry where labour is around 70 per cent of total costs, the clearers are likely to review carefully their whole clearing structure and the days are probably now past when they can afford to provide certain services free as loss leaders.

But the competitive winds are blowing in other directions as well. On the deposit front, the clearers are fighting a losing battle against the building societies and National Savings, both of whom have increased their share of total deposits in recent years. Indeed, over the next few years one of the main political battles that the clearers will have to fight is to try to reduce to a minimum the tax advantages of the building societies in particular, to be on a level footing and able to compete with other deposit-taking institutions.

On the lending front, too, the clearers have begun to find the going much harder. American and other foreign banks, with their greater access to the wholesale money markets and without an expensive branch network to support, have become aggressive lenders to the corporate sector. Already this has forced the clearers to abandon largely their reliance on overdraft rates as the benchmark for corporate borrowers and replace these with more competitive packages.

The clearers have also begun to tailor their lending to industry to its more specific demands for medium-term funds. Increasingly, however, as the institutional arrangements for channelling finance to industry come under the microscope (as they are at the moment with the Wilson Committee), the pressure will be on the clearers to provide longer-term funds or even provide equity participation. In turn this raises complex problems about the deposit structure of the clearers and whether they should seek to attract more stable funds.

Yet there is one area where the clearers are fairly clear about where they want to be, even if the route is

a little hazy, and that is further down the road to what has become known as "electronic banking". Broadly speaking, this means replacing the physical movement of cash, cheques and other money transmission methods with computer-assisted techniques.

The nightmare of the banks is that they will become drowned in a sea of paper. Even with direct debiting, credit cards and so on, about 98 per cent of all money transactions still involve cash and over the next decade the number of cash transactions is expected at least to double.

Apart from these internal challenges, the banks also face the possibility of a number of external shocks. The nationalisation threat has passed for the moment but it remains an integral part of Labour Party policy; harmonization of EEC banking regulations has also been deferred time and time again but will have to be faced at some stage. At home there is the prospect of Britain's first proper banking laws after last year's White Paper on The Licensing and Supervision of Deposit-Taking Institutions.

Both clearing and merchant banks have shown their mettle in the past, and there is little reason to believe that they will not be up to the new challenges of the future.

The author is Banking Correspondent, The Times.

## Abolition threat recedes with Tories at County Hall

by Christopher Warman

The existence of the City of London as a local government authority is in no doubt at present. The Conservative administration at County Hall strongly opposes the Labour Party view that the Corporation should be abolished.

Although abolition is now official Labour policy, it is unlikely that this Government will even consider any reform.

In the long term, the threat could well be renewed—but a Labour campaign to wipe the Corporation off the municipal map has been rumbling along since early this century.

In 1917, Herbert Morrison, founding father of Labour's traditional opposition to the City Corporation, declared rudely that the time had come to face up to its "pretentious buffoonery".

The City is an administrative anachronism, and in our scheme of London's government we must consider twentieth century needs as well as tenth century history," he said.

The City has survived successive onslaughts, including the oratory of Mr. Hylton Harrington, deputy leader of the last Labour GLC administration, who at the height of the most recent manifestation called on "the geriatrics at Guildhall" to go

back to their homes in Surrey and Kent while Londoners got on with the job of running their city.

Such emotive language masks perhaps the seriousness of the Labour Party, whose 1976 conference endorsed a policy which said: "The City should be brought under modern democratic local government and its wealth and income used for the benefit of all Londoners."

It went on to state: "The square mile of the City of London is the last refuge of ancient pre-democratic local government. Immensely rich in realisable value, its finances are controlled by the Court of Common Council and the aldermen who are elected, not only by the 5,000 residents but also by the 8,400 business voters, and used to sustain a tiny unit of local government which is really neither viable, efficient nor responsible."

Labour's reasons for the campaign to abolish the City, fully aired at a GLC meeting earlier this year, are threefold. They claim that the City is not paying as much as it should towards the cost of running London.

Anticipating the City's answer that it already contributes an enormous amount to both the GLC and the Inner London Education Authority, they argue that with a tenth of the rateable value of London and only a thousandth of the population the City is in no position to complain.

The second objection is that the City appears to speak on behalf of all Londoners. The Lord Mayor is widely regarded as London's number one citizen, yet he represents 13,000 electors, while the GLC's chairman represents seven million.

Third is the claim that there is an almost total lack of democracy within the City. There are 5,000 residential voters and 8,000 business voters, although elsewhere the business vote was abolished in 1969. Why is there not a business vote for the 500,000 office workers who come into the City daily and really create its wealth, they ask. In addition, because of the electoral boundaries, 66 per cent of the residential voters are represented by only 12 per cent of the councillors.

February 3 this year was the historic date when the GLC finally voted to end the existence of the City. The decision was sent to the Government with a request for legislation to implement it—since when it has been lost without trace.

In the past the City was confident about defending itself, as if the whole matter was beneath contempt. More recently however, the City's leaders have realized the seriousness of the threat, and come out fighting whenever the challenge is renewed.

Led mainly by Mr Norman Hall, the City Corporation points out that it contributes

more per square foot in rates than any other local authority in Britain.

Of the £162m collected in rates last year most went to the GLC and the Inner London Education Authority, leaving just £23m for its own services of housing, libraries, police, roads and cleansing, health, social services and town development. The City does not complain about its contribution, but resents the accusation that it is hoarding its riches.

Mr Hall, Chairman of the Corporation's policy committee, believes firmly that the Mayorality is one of the nation's most potent international assets, and that the Corporation is democratic, if different.

Defending the use of the business vote, he says: "The business interests of this capital city would be irretrievably harmed if the only interest to be considered by it were those of the residents."

There is no doubt that the Corporation did its cause lessing harm over the refusal of the Court of Aldermen in 1974 to accept Mrs Edwina Coven as the first woman among their number after she had been elected by her ward members. Whatever the rights and wrongs, and despite the subsequent election of Lady Donaldson as an alderman, that decision smacked more of the exclusive club rather than democracy at work, and was never satisfactorily explained.

It was this that helped to give momentum to the latest anti-City campaign, but even now there is no clear idea of what would be done with the Corporation if it were abolished.

One suggested solution is to make the area the responsibility of a GLC committee; this scarcely answers the call for more local democracy. Such a solution moreover would be incompatible with the increasing pressure on the GLC—and the avowed intention of the Conservatives—to confine its role to that of a truly strategic authority, leaving the management of local services to the borough tier.

The alternative would be to cut the area into pieces and hand them round to neighbouring boroughs, which would cause a great squabble.

It is by no means certain that all the boroughs would want their share.

The campaign has nevertheless now reached further than before, with its acceptance as Labour policy, and there it will stay for the present. The Corporation can and does call on the financial City to form a powerful lobby against any change. As long as the City remains the centre of national and international finance, the Corporation surely has an assured future.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, The Times.

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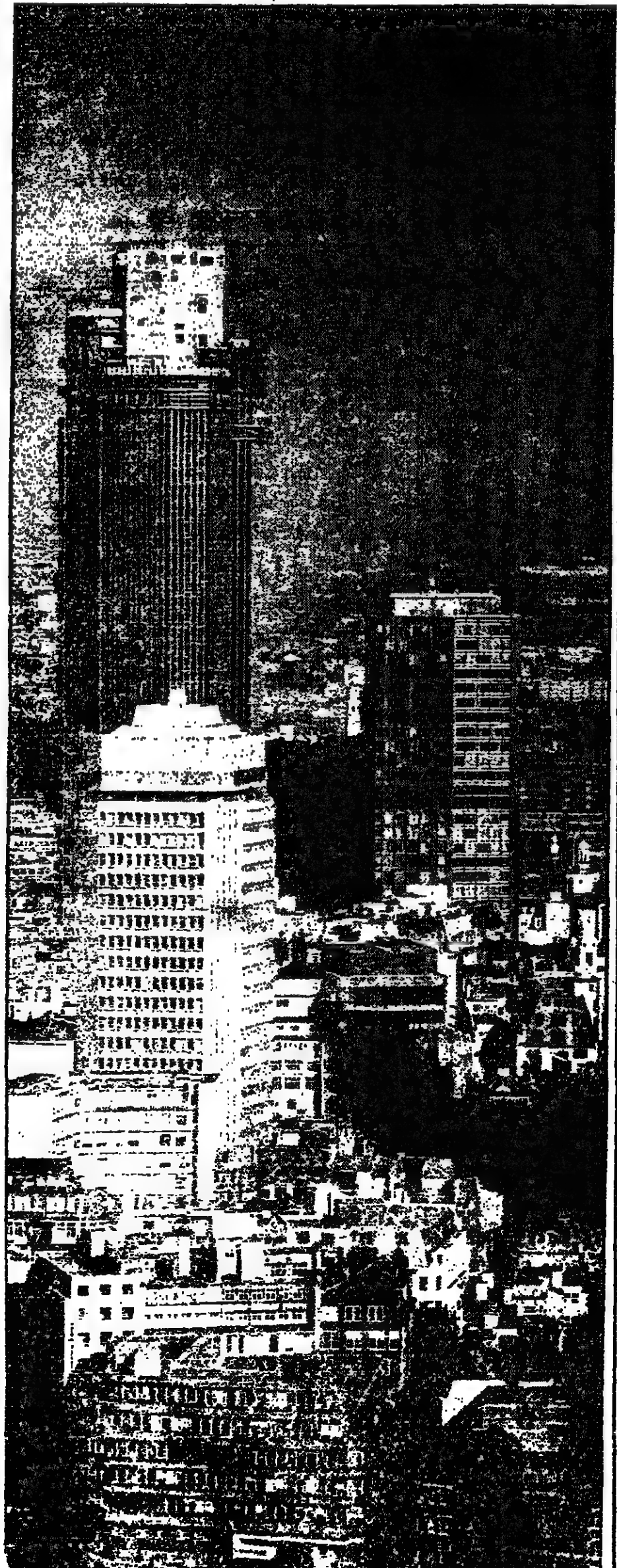
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The long and the short of it... a close up of part of the panorama on the facing page. The pictures were taken from Guy's Hospital.



## 'Anachronism' confounds its critics and expands

by Nicholas Hirst

Lloyd's insurance market, on the surface, has no right to exist in 1977, never mind prosper. It is an anachronism depending on private wealth at a time when fortunes are dwindling and investment is being taken over by huge institutions. It depends on individual flair for decision making, which elsewhere is increasingly being submerged beneath technological innovation and bureaucracy, and to some extent it depends on London's reputation as a financial centre, which is ever more under attack from rivals the world over.

Yet the statistics speak for themselves. The growth of Lloyd's recently has outstripped all expectations. It is ever more popular as a means for investment for the rich that are left, it has survived the financial crisis of the mid-1970s that threat-

ened to engulf even the composites as well as its exposure to the sagging marine market, and it made an underwriting profit for 1974, the last year for which its books are now closed, despite the dismal underwriting climate of the time.

So confident is Lloyd's of its future that six leading architects have recently been asked to draw up a scheme to provide additional underwriting space. This will be the third time since the First World War that Lloyd's has outgrown its surroundings. The building it moved into in 1928 lasted until 1958, when the move was made across Lime Street to what is always referred to as the "new building". Now, despite increasing use of the available floor space the area is beginning to prove too small for the continuing expansion of business and underwriting syndicates.

The architects are looking at the "old building" which at present houses administration, although some staff has already been moved out of the City. A redevelopment of both buildings poses immense problems. A solution will undoubtedly be found, but that it is needed could hardly have been envisaged a decade or so ago.

In the 1960s many people thought Lloyd's could not survive much longer. A poor performance had frightened new capital; private wealth in any case seemed to be on the decline and the sheer muscle, computer-powered research and skills available to the composites appeared likely to win business away from Lloyd's.

Premium income of Lloyd's in 1948 was £126m. After another decade, at the time of the move across Lime Street, it had more than doubled to £301m. Within the next three years it had doubled again, but then as the fears grew that its capital would not be able to keep pace with a growing insur-

ance market, the growth slowed. In 1970 premium income was £787m; then the rapid inflation that was beginning to come through pushed premium income to £1,191m in 1973 and by the following year had leapt again to £1,539m—a growth in the 1970s that has far outstripped inflation.

The growth is not easily explained. The marine market had not seriously declined three years ago, but tanker losses in 1976, and since then air disasters and other horrors which have hit the composite market must have affected business.

But the all important providers of private capital, the "names" of Lloyd's who have proved possession of at least £75,000 (or £37,500 for the so-called "mini-members"), and stand unlimited liability to underwrite risks, keep flooding in. At the beginning of 1977 a record 2,300 new names were taken on, bringing the Lloyd's mem-

bership to 10,670, and there are now 5,000 applications awaiting decision. As long as the capital comes in, underwriting can continue to grow, but only if Lloyd's can remain competitive and continue to make profits.

It is skill in pricing new kinds of business that gives Lloyd's its best chance of keeping ahead in an increasingly competitive world. It was Lloyd's that devised the first policy to cover an "air-cushion vehicle". The odd terminology refers to hovercraft, which fell between the aviation and marine markets. Also it has been able to make up some of the poor premium income on the marine side by insurance of North Sea risks. At first, claims experience was bad but Lloyd's stuck with it, and it has now proved profitable and is a significant part of many marine underwriters' business.

Likewise the development of the reinsurance business is keeping Lloyd's in the

forefront of developments. Here its advantage over the traditional reinsurer is that the Lloyd's underwriter will probably also write direct risks, which enables him to assess the potential reinsurance risk from his own experience.

This is particularly valuable in dealing with the "excess loss" kind of contract, which Lloyd's has pioneered and which allows the underwriter to judge himself what the premium should be instead of merely taking a slice from the direct insurer.

Thus Lloyd's will survive as long as there are wealthy men prepared to risk their all (although the likelihood of the risk being called is thin indeed) for the benefits of making their money work twice, as long as it has underwriters with the entrepreneurial instincts to write competitive business, and as long as new risks come along requiring new kinds of cover.

## Commodities producers seek to negotiate from strength

by Wallace Jackson

Although London commodity prices have presented an up-down, up-down pattern of incessant change in the past decade, the degree of change in the markets themselves has been minimal.

However, two factors—increasing unrest among producers in the developing countries and concern about the degree of speculation in the markets—will almost certainly bring changes.

The grievance of the Third World producers is in essence simple: many of them are entirely dependent on raw materials to sustain their internal economies and earn foreign exchange and they maintain that the developed world has for too long been obtaining materials which cannot be replaced too cheaply.

But not only do they seek what they consider to be a fairer price for their raw materials to leave a reasonable margin after costs of production have been covered but they also want

to move into the sphere of processing and manufacturing their own primary products so that first the industrial wealth is more evenly spread and second so that they can move towards being developed rather than developing countries.

These aspirations are not new, but enormous impetus has been provided by the success of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in forming a producers' cartel which has held the oil consuming world to ransom by controlling both supplies and prices.

It follows that producers of other raw materials are anxious and would like to place themselves in a similarly strong position.

The stumbling block is that with almost all other raw materials besides oil there is either the danger of driving consumers towards the use of substitutes—aluminium for copper; plastics for tin; synthetic rubber for natural rubber and so on—or, particularly in the case of "soft" com-

modities (coffee, cocoa or sugar), creating resistance to the use of the product, as has been seen with coffee and chocolate.

But if the creation of outright cartels is, for a variety of reasons, including lack of cohesion among producers, too difficult to achieve in most cases, there remains the possibility of international agreements with consuming countries.

Although there are already pacts covering coffee, cocoa, sugar and wheat, the model for supporters of such agreements has always been the International Tin Agreement (ITA) which has operated for 20 years.

But even here the course has become anything but smooth with some periodic peacocking, notably Bolivia, complaining that the price levels under the new version of the pact, which has operated since January 1, are unrealistic; that consuming nations should be compelled to contribute to the International Tin Council's buffer stock to which producer members

must subscribe, and that the important producer, Malaysia, and the important consumer, the United States, have too much influence in the Tin Council.

To add to the difficulties, the ITA has for some months been unable to regulate the tin market, buying when the price is low and selling when it is high, because there has been too tin in the buffer stock and the Malaysian price has been consistently well above the ceiling under the ITA.

Nevertheless, there is great pressure for the formation of further international agreements and at the centre of such activity stands the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) which appears to integrate commodity price stabilisation programmes.

Under this programme there would be pacts between producers and consumers for individual commodities backed by a common fund which would supply the cash for buffer stocks, where suitable.

The impact of these nego-

tiations on the City of London's commodity markets lies more in what might happen should they fail than in effects if they succeed.

Failure to reach agreement with the consuming nations would not mean that the Third World producers would quietly go away. They would strive to resolve their differences and it would be only a matter of time before producer cartels in copper, tin and other key commodities were set up.

Moves in the East to establish commodity markets would gain momentum and it is not difficult to envisage London losing its supremacy as the world centre for commodity trading and pricing.

The second important area of concern so far as the City is concerned is the growth in recent years of speculation in commodities and the futures markets by investors seeking a hedge against inflation, taxation and changes in exchange rates.

Speculation in moderation is recognized as a necessary part of commodity market operations and if attempts were made to eliminate it

entirely, the result would be that the market would move to a country in which it was allowed.

But some alarm has been caused by a substantial flow of new money into commodities, much of it from inexperienced investors who operate on rumour rather than analysis.

In fact, the London markets are supervised by the Bank of England which, through the medium of special reports and with the co-operation of the markets themselves, keeps a close eye on speculation, advising where action is seen to be needed. In the future this supervision will probably become tighter.

One change the city will probably see soon is a modification of the London Metal Exchange's traditional method of trading by "principal's contract" under which dealing is between one member and another without the intervention of a clearing house.

The author is Commodities Editor, The Times.



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by Alan Hamilton

There are, according to City Corporation statistics, four unskilled manual workers living in the Barbican. Merely a typical proportion out of the 5,000 residents of the City's only major housing scheme, but then the City of London is a highly untypical housing authority.

At least part of the original conception of the Barbican was to bring back some life to the Square Mile whose daytime working population of 350,000 dwindles to a mere 7,500 going to bed within its boundaries at night. But the kind of life it has brought is not perhaps what was envisaged.

A retired civil servant who lives there remarked: "The Barbican was built for the senior clerks, but the principals have moved in."

Like any other local authority, the City Corporation has certain housing obligations, although in this case they are probably less than anywhere else. Apart from the Barbican, which is populated by tenants who could just as easily live elsewhere (indeed one tenth of them have second homes), the City has some 2,000 tenants, housed largely outside its own boundaries. There is one small scheme of traditional council accommodation in Middlessex Street, but the City's main provision for essential tenants is in schemes at Kennington and Holloway.

Those eligible for the City's housing register fall into three categories: existing City residents; those who work in the City and have a genuine housing or medical need; and key workers in essential City services. The waiting list is tiny compared with other London boroughs.

By the end of the century the size and composition of the City's tiny permanent population are unlikely to be greatly different from what they are today, except that the proportion of manual workers may decrease even further. The background study on population and housing now circulating as part of the City development plan asks questions and offers options, but gives no answers. Some trends, however, are already evident.

First, it is inordinately expensive to build houses in this crowded and priceless square mile of land, so much so that few schemes in the

area could ever qualify for central government housing grants. This explains the unusually high density (240 persons per acre) and high rents of the Barbican.

Second, there is almost no room left, except for one small site awaiting development at Long Lane. Nothing more of another great fire will ever turn it back into a predominantly residential area.

Third, there is a large body of feeling within the City Corporation in favour of devoting all the City's resources to servicing the dominant industry, finance. One senior City official commented: "If we were just part of another London borough, nobody would ever dream of building houses here."

Fourth, there is a belief that demand for essential housing will diminish. Even the traditional manufacturing industries of the City, like printing, are slowly moving away. And no longer are there armies of charwomen to clean the offices; nowadays it is done by firms on contract, with workers being collected by van at a central and possibly distant depot. Besides, much essential City work, like street cleaning and building maintenance, is done at night, reducing even more the need for those involved to live in the immediate neighbourhood.

There is also a not insubstantial stock of additional housing which barely concerns the City planners and adds little to the social life of the area. These are the private flats and penthouses atop City office blocks for the exclusive use of senior executives who miss their last train or find other reasons to stay in town. The City fathers refer to them slightly disparagingly, as "filter tip planning"—little bits of housing on the end of vast commercial blocks.

The trouble with building houses is that you cannot just build houses. People need schools and shops and open spaces to walk their dogs, all of which are scarce in the City. Residents of the Barbican are lucky: there is a school almost directly across the street, but it happens to be over the border in Islington. This lack of room for essential facilities would seem to militate against any further residential development in the area.

The need to build at such high density has meant that the Barbican itself is hardly

over-endowed with the usual facilities of living. There are some shops, a few more are promised, and those who are promised will even find a lawn or two, but for rents which extend from £750 to £3,445 a year, one could reasonably expect a slightly better quality of life.

The Barbican is often compared unfavourably with the development at St Katharine's Dock, just outside the City limits at Tower Bridge. The comparison is unfair: St Katharine's Dock has the advantage of an unusual and attractive riverside location, and it is said to be much more expensive even than the Barbican.

The response to the City's background study may throw up a different set of priorities, although the public meetings already held to discuss the future shape of the City have drawn disappointing attendances. Already there are signs that a greater

proportion of hostel-type accommodation for single professional workers would be welcomed.

There is also some suggestion that the City may have been rather too ready to dismiss the needs of low-paid key workers. Even within the corporation itself, there are some officials who feel that the order of priorities should be low-paid essential workers first, hostels for the single professionals second, and market-rate accommodation for money-earning classes last.

Whatever kind of people they feel they should be housing, the City fathers test an opportunity to create some delightful residential development along the river-side. After all, the two sites which have been vacant in recent years, one is now covered by the Post Office International telephone building, and the other is about to be occupied by a school.

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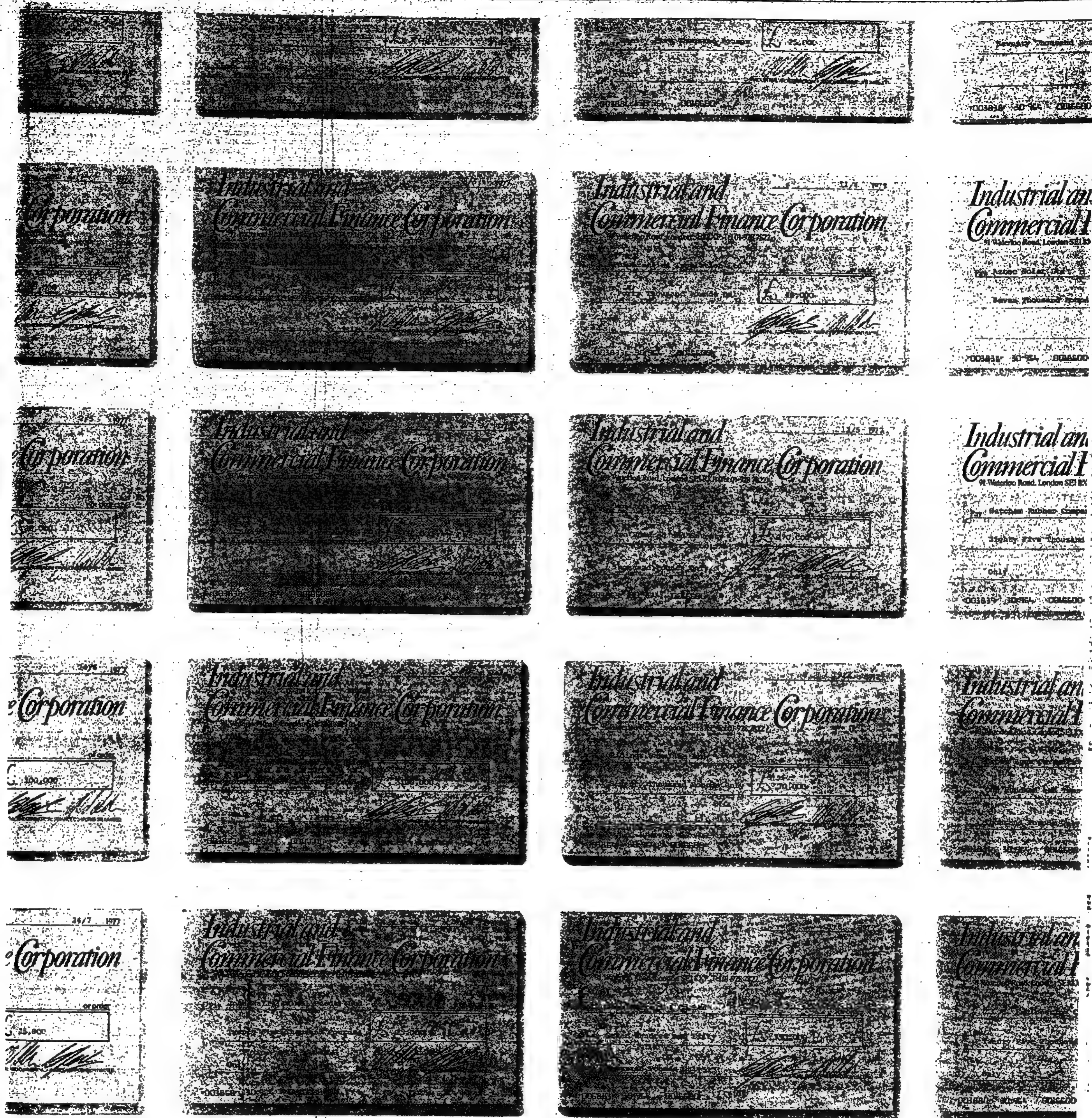
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## Intervention grows with the economy

by John Whitmore

The directness of the relationship may be questionable, but the rapid growth in the size and activity of the financial sector since the early 1960s has run in parallel with a steady shift in the centre of political gravity in Britain towards the left and has been the result of the financial community now finding itself almost permanently in the public dock. It was put there first in the late 1960s on charges of merger mania and asset stripping. Next it was held responsible for the boom, and then the bust, in property, secondary banking and secondary insurance. Finally came the charge of national subversion through

the spread of manic depression and the financial starvation of industry.

Throughout all this, the bankers have come under fire every time sterling has lurched, the building societies have consistently managed to displease someone, and there has been a steady stream of individual causes célèbres of every description—and some, apparently, beyond it.

It is little surprise, then, that over the years a political noose has been cast around the financial community. From time to time there have been tugs on the rope, but as yet nobody has had the inclination to spring the trapdoor.

Paris of the Labour Party have pressed hard for just that, but the Government itself has resisted equally

firmly. It has known that the Labour movement as a whole is anything but united on the scale and type of financial sector intervention that might be appropriate. It has been preoccupied with more important issues and it has had the sense to realize that there is more electoral mileage in intermittently kicking the electorate's envy and sense of "social justice" than, for instance, in reminding the elector that wholesale intervention would put his savings and his credit rating in the hands of Big Brother.

Over and above that, both politicians and civil servants have still to come fully to grips with the size and detail of the subject—though a never-ending stream of reports, investigations and dialogues are

steadily completing a vast jigsaw of information.

The politicians know, moreover, that wholesale intervention might well face them with the possibility of an additional bill for the taxpayer and/or the possible loss of thousands of jobs. And they know, too, that state intervention could eventually destroy Britain's financial services industry's role as a significant foreign currency earner.

At the other end of the hangerman's rope, the financial community has itself been doing its utmost to prevent the rope from tightening. It has put an increasing amount of effort into keeping its house in order and abreast of the times. It has also put considerable effort into trying to persuade the public that, despite the

inevitable wars, it is not at heart the greedy ogre it is often portrayed to be. Rather, it is a highly professional industry that serves the community rather better than profligate governments and which, by and large, can regulate its affairs in the public interest rather better than a host of new bureaucratic appointees.

That said, it has found the going tough, largely for three reasons. First it has, at least until recently, found precious little support in the political arena. Secondly, the disparate nature of the financial sector has made it ideal for attack but difficult to defend. Thirdly, the City, whatever its other skills, has been slow to learn the techniques of mass propaganda.

Where, then, is the issue of intervention likely to go from here? A great deal obviously depends on the outcome of the next election. A clear Labour victory, particularly if later followed by a switch of emphasis to the left once the Prime Minister steps down, would obviously produce a different pattern of development than a Conservative win.

Meanwhile, the issue itself divides fairly neatly into three—regulation, the direction of funds and the role of the Bank of England.

As far as regulation goes, developments have come in a variety of ways. Self-regulation has seen the evolution of, for instance, the Takeover Panel and a greater volume of Stock Exchange inquiries into malpractice. As for financial sector watchdogs, the Bank of England has become much

more vigilant, particularly in the wake of the secondary banking crisis. It is playing the central role in the development of a non-statutory board to oversee the securities industry.

On the government front, Whitehall has shown considerable interest in financial sector developments. It has taken an active interest in inflation accounting and has also joined in a joint advisory committee with the building societies. On the legislative front it has introduced the Policyholders Protection Act, affecting insurance companies, and the Companies (No 2) Act, affecting auditors. At some stage, and with the full approval of the self-regulating school, it will introduce legislation on inside dealing.

The direction of funds has two aspects to it—the positive pushing of funds to wards politically chosen homes and the negative restriction on the free flow of funds. To date the latter has been more important, with the Monopolies Commission considerably narrowing the interpretation of what is an acceptable merger.

The more serious threat in the future, however, is clearly the positive direction of institutional funds. The capital markets have responded to the threat of words and the National Enterprise Board with initiatives of their own—building up Finance for Industry and creating Equity Capital for Industry, for instance. They will now be hoping that the Wilson Committee will finally lay the ghost of the need for, or the desirability of, political investment.

Finally, there is the crucial question of the future role of the Bank of England. At one extreme there are those who would like to see all its activities put firmly under Whitehall control. At the other are those who would like to see the Bank not only strengthened as an independent supervisory force in the financial sector but also given the central position in the determination of national monetary policy.

It may be that the politicians, when it comes to it, will show a marked reluctance to divert any further power and the Bank will merely go on drifting further into the public sector orbit. Alternatively, it might be given greater powers in one of the two areas, but not the other. Which, only time will tell.

## Fraud Squad is in business

by Clive Borrell

Not much more than a decade ago a visitor to London could have been forgiven for asking his guide: "Why are all these prosperous-looking City businessmen doffing their hats to that man walking ahead?" And the guide, if he knew anything about the City, would have been quick to answer: "Because he's the head of the Fraud Squad."

One lunch-time I felt into step with this man and felt somewhat embarrassed by the attention he was receiving.

It seems you cannot go anywhere without someone knowing you—doesn't it get you down when you go out

just for a casual stroll?" I asked.

"It doesn't worry me," he replied, "but it puts the fear of God into some of them when they see me. Many are genuine friends, but some are just wondering when I shall be feeling their collar. They are sailing so close to the wind they can expect a call at any time."

Times have changed but the respect is still there. The Metropolitan and City Police Company Fraud Department is now nearly 200 strong, with 60 of those officers based permanently in the City investigating £100m worth of alleged fraud. Less than a year ago the department's strength was 35.

Last year officers from the department travelled to

Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein and the United States to investigate the foreign "ends" of City-based frauds.

Mr James Page, then Commissioner, wrote in his annual report: "The international scene is now very much more extensive, with companies registered abroad in countries whose records are sometimes difficult to obtain."

"The success that we do achieve in dealing with these cosmopolitan crimes is the result of excellent international cooperation between police forces."

"However, each has to operate within its own laws which does create some difficulty. It is hoped that within the near future some

of these laws may be varied to facilitate the investigation of international crimes, particularly within the Common Market countries, to allow the freer movement of investigating officers. This is something which requires urgent attention by the Government if the international criminals are to be curbed."

In fact, during the last 12 months international cooperation has greatly improved, making it a real and personal contact with forces across the Channel and through Interpol.

The department has also lost the bowler hat image. Fraud department officers are on foot, wearing many more "villagers" than they were in the past. It is a common

occurrence to bump into a fraud department detective at the Stock Exchange or any of the other markets which still attract buyers and sellers from all over the world.

The modern fraud detectives do not wait for "business" to come to them. They go where the people and the money are, listening, talking and gleaming snippets of information.

"We know our clients and have a shrewd suspicion about the close attention in the future", one senior member of the department said. "Generally speaking we

do not encounter the violence which is commonplace with other forms of crime. In fact, many of our clients are arrested by appointment at their solicitors' offices."

"The City still clings to its gentlemanly tradition although in a few cases we are now finding criminals who set up 'fronts' in the City and protect them with roughstuff."

"You don't need to be an accountant or a mathematician to be useful in the department. You just need the instincts of a good policeman", I was told. "We can call on the City of professional help if required from our friends in the City so one does not need to be an expert in company affairs—

we need men with the good old-fashioned nose for the suspicious."

It would be wrong to think that the proliferation of computers in business fraud will mean becoming "computer cops".

Most computer frauds are perpetrated by those who have access to computers in their normal daily work or those who gain access by dishonest means.

"A computer fraud investigation is the same as any other. The machines do not commit fraud, it's the people who handle them who commit the crime", a department expert said.

"One cannot escape the fact, though, that in the next 10 years this type of crime will be a real headache in the computer by some

companies is now being questioned after the discovery of hopelessly inaccurate accounts published in good faith and honesty."

Many auditors and accountants are being sued for millions of dollars for preparing balance sheets which agree with the computer but disagree with the balance of capital held at the bank. It is clear in some of the cases that the computer has been "milked" and then doctored to give a false balance.

It is often said that some of the United States worst weather eventually falls in London. It is to be hoped that some of their present bad habits sink while crossing the Atlantic.

The implicit trust placed in the computer by some

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by Nicholas Hirst

In some ways criticising accountants for the financial collapses and disorder of the mid-1970s is like complaining to the Meteorological Office over the weather or blaming lawyers for an increase in the rate of crime.

But accusations that accountancy failed to give sufficient warning of overstretched balance-sheets or that the standards they applied were not sufficiently stringent have held enough truth to cause the profession considerable embarrassment and encourage it to change its ways.

Only recently, however, has it begun to be generally understood that the compiling of balance-sheets, and the reporting of them is a very subjective task, and that any statement that says a set of figures represents "true and fair view" is a statement of opinion, not of fact. It depends to a great extent on what standards have been applied in drawing up the figures.

In arriving somewhere near such a general understanding, accountants have been hampered from pillar to post by a number of factors: for inadequate standards; on which accounts should be drawn up, then for having the standards themselves attacked when they were drawn. They were criticised first for not reflecting the effects of inflation on accounts, then for reflecting inflation inadequately, then for making too complex proposals, and all the time for not doing any of it quickly enough.

The problems that have beset accountancy have been the same that have beset the economy and City institutions as a whole: inflation, a desire for more rigorous regulation of financial markets and greater disclosure of financial facts.

Whatever the causes, accountants have found themselves obliged to provide increasingly complex detail, when the figures they have had to work with have become more uncertain and the economic climate has

changed even more rapidly. As accountancy can, for all practical purposes, be regarded as the basic profession of the City, it became extremely important that the profession regained a reputation for accuracy and good judgement, which it lost, not so much through its own fault, but because events moved too quickly to allow its cumbersome structure and the innate conservatism of many of its members, to react.

Although the profession still regards itself as being strong, the public has discovered that accountants' house is beginning to look in better order than it has for some time. It is not good at public relations (though oddly it is often well advised) and (as the public has discovered) it is doing too little, too late, as the Institute of Chartered Accountants did recently in issuing pronouncements by its professional standards committee. This was an attempt to get a word in on discipline before the report by the eight-member committee, headed by Lord Cross of Chelsea, which was published on November 9.

It is too early to say whether the Cross recommendations will remove the threat of state-imposed discipline of the City, but the Department of Trade seemingly very reluctant to interfere with its affairs, and the profession itself almost paranoid in its desire to avoid any chance of its chances of it happening look ever unlikely.

But it is not the odd case of malpractice or negligence which has resulted in a company going broke with our warning that has disturbed the public as much as a feeling that accountants generally have not known what they were doing.

The appointment within the ranks of the Accounting Standards Committee, which has codified best practice has given accountants working in companies a framework in which to draw up accounts, which is available for auditors to check, while the more recent appointment of a similar committee, which like ASC comprised members from each of the six United Kingdom

bodies, will provide similar ground rules. The publication of the code guidelines on inflation accounting have also removed the most contentious topic of debate while improving information to users of accounts.

Many problems remain. The joint professional bodies of the Auditing Practices Committee and ASC are a cumbersome way of controlling a profession that finds it impossible to integrate. Although ground rules for preparing financial statements, adding accounts and disciplining miscreants are largely available they will need to change as financial conditions change, and soon the profession will have to make up its mind whether an audit of small companies is in any way significant, or whether, as with the intended development of disclosure requirements, there should be a scaled system for the different sizes of companies.

All these things are likely to get a far greater public bearing than they would have done 10 years ago, and in the future will come up increasingly against international constraints.

## Tradition at sixes and sevens

by Alan Hamilton

Dick Whittington does not really deserve all the kudos. He was by no means the first Lord Mayor of London, and it is doubtful whether he ever had a cat, although he did hold the post of London's first Citizen three times.

The first recorded mayor was Henry Fitz Aylwyn in 1192, and he probably did not have a cat either.

The City's governing body is so old that it has no charter of incorporation, and exists only by right of custom and practice, since at least the time of Alfred the Great, who appointed his son-in-law its alderman in 885. In 1100 years of history the City has collected a vast store of tradition and ancient practice, much of which continues to be preserved and renewed at the appropriate time each year.

One of the oldest is the Trial of the Pyx. Every year since 1248 the Goldsmiths' Company has been on the lookout for counterfeit coin of the realm, in a ceremony held in March. One coin out of every 5,000 produced by the Royal Mint (now moved from the City to South Wales) is put in a sealed packet, and the packets into a series of boxes called the Pyx. Members of the Company check the denomination of the coins, weigh them in bulk, and announce their findings to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In 1381 the wife of Sir Robert Knollys built a bridge from her house in Seething Lane to another property across the road, without obtaining planning consent. As a penalty the Lord Mayor imposed a quit-rent of a single red rose to be presented every Mid-

summer Day. Nowadays the rose is presented by members of the Ward of the Tower and parishioners of All Hallows Barking by the Tower, who present them far from London.

Since 1205, after the installation of a new Master of the Vintners' Company, a procession goes from Vintners' Hall to the Church of St. James, Garlickhythe, preceded by wine porters in white smocks who sweep the street clean with besoms.

The members of the company "do dip in wine or their nostrils be offended by any noxious flavours or other ill vapours".

The oldest organized race in England was instituted on the Thames in 1716, when scullers competed for a splendid red coat and silver badge bequeathed by the comedian Thomas Doggett. The race is still rowed each July from London Bridge to Cadogan Pier, Chelsea.

The expression "at sixes and sevens" dates from 1384, when the Skinners' and Merchant Taylors' Companies were both unwilling to accept the indignity of demolition, from sixth to seventh place in the annual procession of buns and coins is made to poor City widows under the bequest of the Buxerworth Charity. The gifts being laid out on tombstones by the west door. At the same time another bun is added to the collection above the bar in the Widow's Son pub, to commemorate the sailor son who failed to return home two hundred years ago.

Another ancient ceremony is held at the Law Courts each October, when the City Solicitor pays the Queen's Remembrancer the quarter-rent for two City holdings, one of which is a new house. The rent for the Moors in Shropshire used to be two knives, one sharp enough to cut a hard stick with one blow, the other so weak that it would bend in new cheese. The knives have now been replaced by a billhook and hatchet.

At the same time the City pays rent on The Forge in St. Clement Danes with six horseshoes and 61 nails, a custom arising from jousting tournaments once held near by.

Sir John Cass, the City Sheriff who founded the school which bears his name, died of humeritis in 1718 while drawing up his will in favour of the foundation. Each February the pupils attend a memorial service in St. Botolph's, Aldgate, wearing red leather quilts in their hair and lapels in memory of his bloodstained pen.

Two Easter traditions concern hot cross buns. Every Good Friday at the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, a presentation of buns and coins is made to poor City widows under the bequest of the Buxerworth Charity. The gifts being laid out on tombstones by the west door. At the same time another bun is added to the collection above the bar in the Widow's Son pub, to commemorate the sailor son who failed to return home two hundred years ago.

A happier tradition is remembered each April, in accordance with the bequest in 1380 of Signor Pasquale Ferraro, an Italian merchant, the City Corporation dis-

tributing marriage dowries to three "poor, honest young women" between 16 and 25, who were born in the City or have lived there for seven years. The benefactor stated in his will that he had been "induced to make the bequest by the fact that his wife was a native of London, and he had passed many happy years of his life in that City."

Once a fortnight the children of Bow pass under a small wooden arch in Fern Street inscribed "Enter all ye children small; None can come who are too tall." Those who can pass under are presented with toys.

A building in Philip Lane has what appears to be a carving of a mouse and a piece of bread on the facade. Tradition affirms that while the builders had stopped for lunch, a mouse ran off with one workman's spend-wiches; he threw a handful of wet cement at it and imprisoned it and his lunch for ever on the wall.

Silhouetted against the sky above Cornhill is a pair of crouching devils. One appeared poised to leap on to the church of St. Peter below. The architect, Runtz, lost a dispute with the church authorities and erected the devils to show his disapproval. There are countless more oddities and traditions, many of them listed in Kent's classic *Encyclopaedia of London*, recently revised by the present City Librarian, Godfrey Thompson, and others in Andrew Lawson's *Uncovered London*, published this year.

One more recent tradition, as prevalent in London as elsewhere, is the writing of graffiti on walls. What will future historians make of the inscription seen recently: "Keep Britain tidy—eat a pigeon?"

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01/11/1977



## More traded than stocks and shares

by Richard Warden

Terms were agreed last month in the final negotiation of new 12-year leases for the 180 tenants of Smithfield Market. For the 109 years since the London Central Meat, Poultry and Provisions Markets were established there, Smithfield has run on weekly tenancies. Two of the new 12-year tenants had successors who opened there in the first week.

There is another link with the old system. Tenancies were always subject to a particular City Corporation condition: a breach of covenant by any tenant constituted an automatic breach of tenancy. It means that if a market dealer does not pay his suppliers, then he forfeits his pitch. The same applies under the new tenancies.

All four of the City's produce markets — Billingsgate, Leadenhall, Smithfield and Spitalfields — combine traditions like this with varying degrees of modern distributive practice. Smithfield's meat market is the biggest of them, and the one most likely to survive further changes in the wholesaling and retailing of food. Its volume of business rivals that of some of the financial markets of the City. And the physical trading done inside the market, about £250m a year, does not convey the whole picture. As with the commodity or metals markets, volume done inside the exchanges may be outweighed by that done in the business quarter which surrounds them.

The meat dealers around Smithfield, using the prices struck there as a going rate for produce which is miles, even continents away, probably buy and sell another £500m of meat a year. Even so, the trading done within the market makes it probably the biggest dead meat, poultry and provisions market in the world.

Why Smithfield has flourished, and Billingsgate's fish market declined, is partly to do with trade practice, partly facilities. Most types

of meat have not suffered the same recent price inflation as fish, limiting retail sales. Nor has there been an equivalent to the growth in ports supplying fish direct to the restaurants, or to the makers of fish fingers.

But Billingsgate has also suffered more physically. It lies between the Thames and what is now the main east-west road artery of the City. Completion of this dual carriageway is what will finally push Billingsgate's market out of the City, not just the decline in trade (less than a third of the turnover now compared with the peak years of the 1950s, although the figures distort the fall, since more fish now arrives already processed and therefore lighter).

So, the site having been used for a general market for a thousand years, and as a fish market since the fifteenth century, Billingsgate will probably lose its traders in the next few years, perhaps to a site further east. Councillor Alfred Shindler, chairman of the Central Markets Committee which controls Smithfield, happens also to represent the Billingsgate Ward. He maintains the fish market is still, in trading terms, viable, but that it could soon be "dead on this site".

Its decampment would highlight the phenomenon of how these sprawling produce markets ever came to be set up over acres of an overcrowded financial centre, containing valuable office block land. It is just a matter of history, the City having early protected its preeminence by getting statute rights to run the main trading markets of the day, and to suppress any markets within seven miles of these.

In practice the Earl of Bedford was granted Covent Garden, and the Crown allowed John Balch to start Spitalfields Market in Stepney. The City borders in 1683 (the City did not buy the market of freehold until 1901). But with few exceptions the City's powers have survived, and the Corporation is effectively the wholesale market authority for Greater London.

Each of its four markets is controlled by a committee of the Common Council and administered by a superintendent, and it has been

the Corporation's decision to move markets around—like pushing the live cattle market out from Smithfield to Islington in 1855, and then moving the Newgate Street and Farringdon markets into Smithfield—and also to determine expenditure on rebuilding.

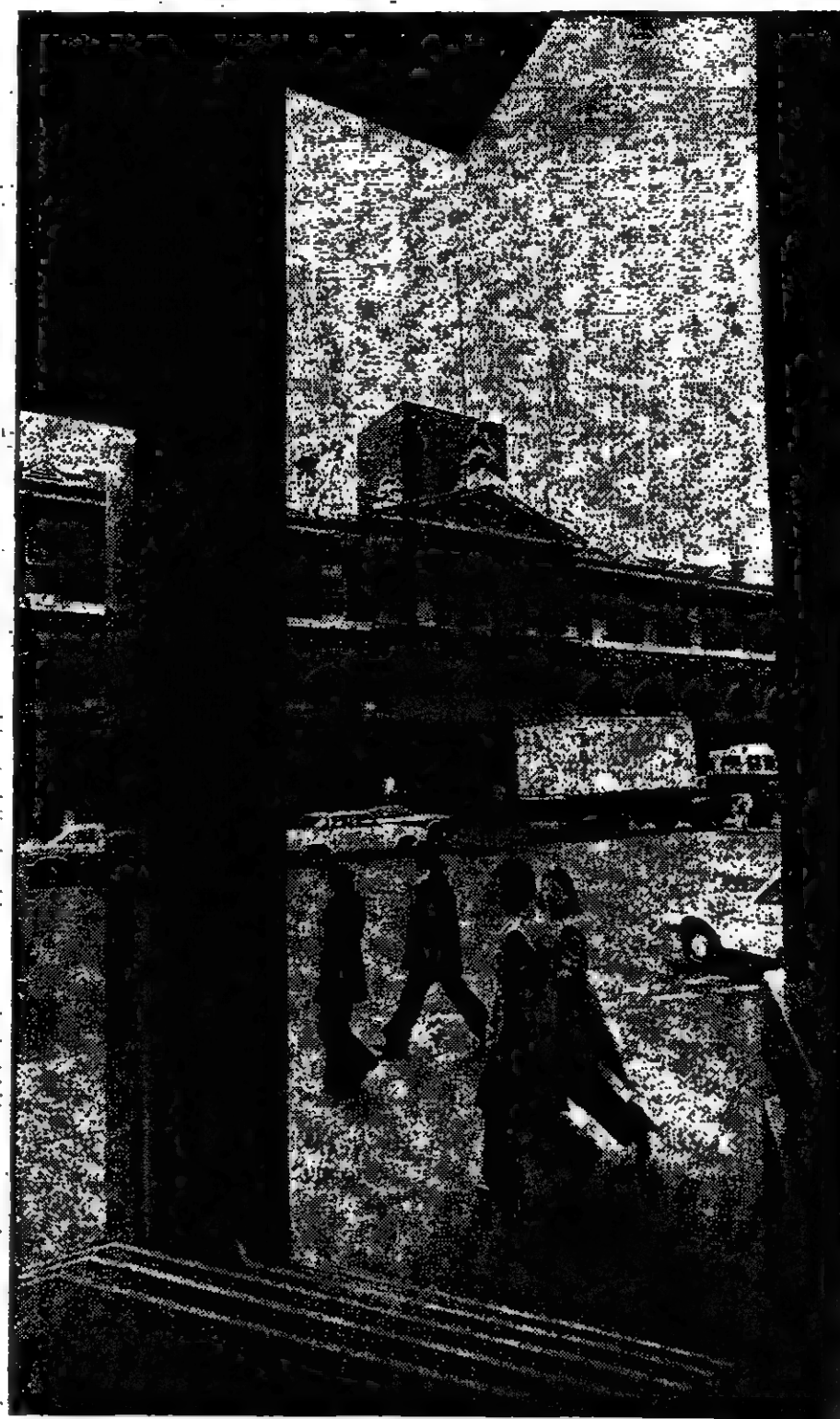
It administers them as facilities rather than profit-makers, returns being limited to tens of thousands of pounds on gross sales of about £1m.

What most of the working or resident population of the City bother about, especially now that the worst road congestion problems of the whole market have been solved, is the shortage of shops in the area. This is where Leadenhall, the second largest retail centre in the City after Chancery, plays an important role.

It was bought by the Corporation in 1411 and a large market house constructed there in 1445. The last rebuilding was in 1881, and, while some of the atmosphere of the wholesale poultry, game and egg market persists, Leadenhall is now a collection of shops rather than a market in the strict sense. Mercifully, most of the grandiose schemes for modernizing it have now been forgotten, and the present debate concerns more vehicle-pedestrian separation.

But keeping areas like Leadenhall as protected, historic areas does not solve the basic difficulty of improving shopping facilities in the City. These have been in steady decline since the Second World War. Between 1961 and 1973 the area lost a quarter of its retail floor-space and half of what is left is taken up by pubs, cafés and restaurants.

In the past few years the decline has been slowed, with the Corporation restoring changes of use from retail to what are called quasi-retail uses, like building society or betting offices. The fact remains, however, that the multiple retailers find it hard to meet trading targets in the City, with its limited peak shopping period at lunchtime, while the smaller shopkeepers are frightened by high rents and rates. Retail labour is difficult to find, because of the low wages relative to clerical jobs and the time and costs involved in commuting.



Billingsgate: after a thousand years traders may have only a few years left.

## Gastronomic hazards among the office blocks

by John Groser

A close friend recently made the move from financial journalism to the City. Used to Fleet Street expense accounts, he entertained lavishly with some style at his new merchant bank.

Came the day when he took to luncheon a former senior Tory minister at a not altogether unpleasant wine bar in the City. The round, Conservative one declared that he was on a diet and proceeded merely to drink—Mumm Green Label in vast quantities.

Such was the quantity that my friend asked for a receipt at paying time for the bill, which came to £32. In due course, the financial director of the aforementioned merchant bank sent for the recruit and demanded to know how on earth he and one guest could possibly drink £32-worth of champagne in the luncheon hour.

The reply, with a hint of raised eyebrow, was laconic: "Why, slightly chilled and accompanied by a small

plate of caviar on toast." My friend is now thought of as a "high flyer" in that bank. I only mention this digressing episode because it was to my gourmand friend that I went when I had been instructed to write this piece about winning and dining in the City. He sighed a mighty sigh and plucked another gull's egg (out of season, but specially flown in from south-equatorial parts) from the basket on his bedside table (he was at this point in hospital for the duration of his wife's confinement before the birth of their first child).

The City, he protested, was a gastronomic desert. There was scarcely a watering hole he would recommend to the readers of this great organ. At this point a comely nurse informed him that he had just become the proud father of twins. He fainted and left me to compose, from no great experience, a guide to this issue of wine, food, on food and drink-wise, in the City.

My worst experience—an occasion when gastronomy reached its lowest point—was in a small pub. The dry wine I ordered turned out to be chateau-bottled, Ugandan riesling (with the special Amin sweetener) and accompanied the house's special paté sandwich—a one inch lump of liver sausage between two one inch slices of lightly oiled bread.

People tell me that City lunches are tawdry, boring, indigestible, expensive and the only time to get real business done. And so they may be. When I worked in America, people used to say that the golf course was the only place to get business done, which may also have been true, though I never found it so. I spent so much time in bunkers and forgetting to turn off the motor of my cavity car (so the old saying ran off by itself) that "business" for me was of a purely theatrical character.

So, for that matter, is eating in the City. Summoned to the boardroom of an illustrious clearing bank, I found myself (with emotions approaching awe) seated between the chairman and managing director of this high street leviathan.

"Would the Health Administration fail with its incomes policy?" the chairman inquired. I toyed with my dry smoked salmon and wondered why these captains of commerce were discussing such matters of importance in front of a mere political reporter. There is only a certain time you can toy with salmon, and when I looked up seven pairs of half-crimped eyes were fixed on me.

Those were the days of austerity and boardroom luncheons at... ah, I nearly told you... were confined to four courses and two wines. Obviously, we were not going to get the second course until I made some reply. So I said "it depended" and completed the chairman on his white Burgundy.

All the wines (including an excellent claret) had been laid down by his father (so you have guessed which bank) and were a matter of little consequence to the chairman. Nor, for that matter, was the food, which

seemed curiously "nursery" in so opulent a setting. The aged retainers were wonderful and ensured that if any dish was hot when it arrived from the kitchens, it was definitely cold when it reached the table.

The servers of food and wine are an observer's delight. The relatively new fashion of giving guests luncheon in your office (rather than taking them to an expensive eatery) has provided occupation for many unseated Sloane Rangers. Pert bottoms and sheer stockings have covered (if the expression may be excused) a multitude of gastronomic sins.

My favourite "in-house" dining room was at the old Spectator offices in Gower Street (which, though not strictly in the City, possessed through the proprietorship of Harry Crichton a definite City quality) where dolly, cordon-bleu cookery, with Hermes headscarves served goodies to dazzling guests like Margaret Thatcher, Edward Heath and Enoch Powell (though not

of course, on the same day). Then there are the facilities offered by the City Guilds, various (more or less) expensive clubs, a confusing selection of restaurants, wine bars and pubs. If the City, collectively, has hardened arteries, I am hardly surprised.

The men and women who control our destinies from the Square Mile have hardly the scope for a balanced diet and controlled drinking. Expense accounts are more than a status symbol and a handful of credit cards has become a substitute for cash.

What is needed in the City is a superb (French) restaurant offering a limited menu at proper cost with wines to match. Service should be friendly, but not familiar. It should be possible to eat three courses, drink a bottle of wine and finish your coffee within an hour. No table should be so close to another that conversation can be easily overheard. There is the idea and I even know of the site. Has any reader got the money?

## Livery companies contribute to high standards

by Patrick O'Leary

A trapeze of tourists was making its awed way through the hall of one of the City's medieval livery companies. The host pointed out a particularly fine example of modern craftsmanship and remarked: "You can see we are not just a dining club."

Companies often feel defensive because much of their time is now spent organising schools, charities, and ceremonial dinners, and polishing the antique silver. But these activities are worthy if not worshipful and nobody need apologise for contributing to high standards in such neglected social arts and social services.

After all, nobody would be better off if the Bowers had clung grimly to bow-making, although they still encourage archery. This company was always quick to adapt, for in 1571 members positioned for night work to be abolished. Furriers have taken to re-crafting manufacturers of quilting fans.

Some bodies have stuck closely to their roots. The Gunmakers, who did so much to put Bowman out of business, have been proof testing small arms for 240 years. The Fishmongers send out inspectors, called fishmasters, from their hall by London Bridge to check the freshness of catches on sale at Billingsgate.

In the general eye, Vintners go with swan-upping, from the annual taking up and marking of the company's birds on the Thames. But among their duties is helping to enforce EEC wine laws in Britain.

Hallmarks are still applied at Goldsmiths' Hall. It is better known to the public than the headquarters of other foundations because of the frequent exhibitions held there, including this year's display of royal souvenirs.

Early in November the Company of Builders' Merchants received their letters patent from the Lord Mayor, Sir Robin Gillies. This formal grant of livery made them the eighty-eighth in order of precedence, and they were the

fourth to obtain it in 1977, after more than a decade without new entrants.

Perhaps this sudden revival of interest owes something to a feeling that both the City and professional bodies are under left-wing fire, and should close ranks. Certainly the corporation has decided to strengthen its links with institutions whose members are active in the City, but whose headquarters may be in other parts of London.

One of the new livery companies, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, founded by charter in 1868, said that although they had 50,000 members world wide, and premises in the heart of Westminster, they had strong connections with the City. "It is a question of achieving recognition there, of professional and personal status," a spokesman said.

Other newcomers this year have been the Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and the Chartered Accountants. Not all their members will become liverymen, and few of those who do will have occasion to

wear the livery or uniform after their initiation.

A grant of livery is distinct from that of a charter, which comes from the monarch, and it is made only if the City's Court of Aldermen is satisfied the company concerned is an established body devoted to some trade or interest not already represented. The aldermen set a quota for the number of freemen to which each company is entitled, the total limit for new ones being 300.

One further complication is that freemen do not necessarily become liverymen straight away. Many have to wait years for this step.

Some companies restrict members to people directly involved in the trade or profession, but the majority also admit the children of members—the Queen is free-woman of the Drapers because her father was a Draper. The freedom can also be presented to distinguished guests, and put bluntly, it can be bought, although redemption as it is called is only open to those elected.

Livery companies and the

guilds from which they sprang had a hand in establishing institutions which would be regarded as welfare state services today. They looked after members who fell sick, and the families of those who died. They encouraged apprenticeship, and regulated relations between master and men.

Merchants selling shoddy goods or giving short weight were punished, guilds operating the closed shop with a ruthlessness that would shock a modern picket. Their method of electing officers has been seen as the basis of democracy itself.

Delving into company history is a little like unravelling the plot of Beowulf, but the founding fathers must have been acquainted. But there are charters 600 years old and more, while many bodies were established well before receiving charters.

Each company has a number headed by the Mercers at No. 1, with 11 others making up the Great Twelve. But this order of precedence, followed on ceremonial occasions, was established in

1515, and does not necessarily indicate age.

Skinner and Merchant Taylors alternate annually between sixth and seventh because both refused to say "after you". A more detached attitude is taken by the Parish Clerks, who, although among the oldest chartered bodies, have never applied for a grant of livery. Several companies have magnificent halls, but most are modern, the original premises having disappeared through fire, bombing and demolition. One surviving gem is the seventeenth-century hall of the Society of Apothecaries in a secluded courtyard at Blackfriars. Distinctive in a different way is the sleep on the Thames which houses the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

Several City churches owe much to the companies long associated with them. This clergy-commerce link was renewed unexpectedly when the City Livery Club opened in 1914. The luncheon club uses part of St. Clement's, a theological foundation with a clerical library.

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## We think pubs should look their age.



THE QUEENS HEAD. BUILT 1670, MODERNISED 1967.

Some brewerics show little respect for architecture, old or new.

They plaster their pubs with signs. Paint them up in gaudy colours.

And decorate them to clash with their surroundings rather than complement them.

So an old country pub can end up looking much the same as a new city centre pub.

They do it to create a 'modern' corporate image.

We don't do it at all. When we modernise a pub we like to leave it looking as good as the day it was built.

We take into account its size, position and above all its age and character.

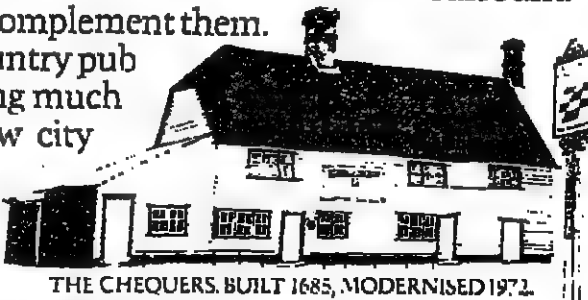
We emphasise its architectural features and make the most of its eccentricities.

And when we build a pub from scratch, it fits in with its surroundings.

You won't find 'Whitbread' signs all over our pubs. The most we allow is two. And even then we limit their size.

So, old or new, good or bad, you can see the architecture.

That's why out of all Whitbread pubs across the country no two look alike.



THE CHEQUERS. BUILT 1685, MODERNISED 1972.



THE GOLDEN LION. BUILT 1900, MODERNISED 1974.



THE BOWERS ARMS. BUILT 1965.



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6  
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



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## OECD states scrap target and face another year of mounting unemployment

From David Blake  
Paris, Nov 22

The industrial nations of the West today accepted that most of them will have to face another year of rising unemployment in 1978. Hopes expressed by ministers in June that the economies of countries forming the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development could grow by 5 per cent next year have now been abandoned.

Instead, even the optimists now conclude that, if each country succeeds in meeting its own growth target, the total increase in output during 1978 will be only 4.5 per cent.

Many countries accept that on present forecasts they will not grow by as much as they would like next year, and two of the strongest nations, Germany and Japan, have said that they see virtually no scope for further action if they find that they are underperforming their targets. The decision to abandon the 5 per cent growth target for 1978 was taken by senior officials at a meeting of the Economic Policy Committee of the 24-nation OECD.

Officials were presented with two sets of figures during their two-day meeting which ended here tonight. One set consisted of national targets for growth next year. The other, generally much lower, was made up of forecasts drawn up by senior economists at the

OECD on what they believed to be the likely outcome during 1978 if present policies were continued.

Only the United States put forward a reasonably high growth target with great conviction. Mr Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said that America was determined to grow by around 5 per cent during 1978.

He said that worries about the balance of payments would not be allowed to stand in the way of this growth target, and that if any extra stimulatory action were needed it would be taken.

Mr Schultz called on other countries to expand their economies more rapidly pointing out that growth outside the United States would be below 4 per cent next year even if all the targets were met; most predictions would set the probable figure at around 3 per cent.

This compares with a growth rate of around 5 per cent needed to bring down the unemployment rate in Europe. Strong American pressure for greater stimulus to demand was backed by Sir Douglas Wass, permanent secretary to the Treasury. He said that the risks of the world were now much greater on the side of recession than inflation, a view shared by many other members and the OECD secretariat itself.

On the other side surplus countries such as Germany,

Japan and Switzerland reject the idea that they should cut taxes or boost public spending to stimulate demand.

The Germans say they hope to achieve growth of around 4 to 4.5 per cent next year compared with the 3 per cent forecast by the OECD secretariat for Germany. They said that even if the OECD forecast turns out to be right, they do not intend to be forced into what they consider premature action to cut taxes.

They attack both the theory that tax cuts stimulate growth and the suggestion that Germany has a special responsibility, along with Japan, to help lead the world out of recession.

This idea, commonly known as the "locomotive theory", has now been replaced in the thinking of the OECD secretariat by proposals calling for many more countries to stimulate their economies.

Although Germany, Japan and the United States are expected to play an important role, the OECD would like to see middle-ranking countries playing a more expensively part.

The meeting of the past two days was originally intended to chart the way forward for joint action by industrial nations to cope with their problems. It seems, instead, to have led to a widening of differences between those wanting more expansion and those worried about inflation.

On the other side surplus countries such as Germany,

## Tyne and Clyde given bulk of ships order

Tyneside and Clydeside are earmarked for the largest shares of the £115m shipbuilding order from Poland.

Mr Michael Casey, chief executive of British Shipbuilders, announced in Glasgow last night that he was proposing to allocate all seven of the 16,500-ton bulk carriers to the Swan Hunter yard on Tyneside, and 10 of the 15, multipurpose bulk carriers (each of 4,500 tonnes) to Govan Shipbuilders on the Clyde.

The value of the Swan Hunter order is about £50m, and the Clyde share is worth between £35m and £40m.

Mr Casey's announcement came after meetings with ship stewards on Tyneside and Clydeside during which he called for assurances of full cooperation. He asked for an answer by Friday of this week on full cooperation in building and delivering the ships on a tight schedule.

At his press conference in Glasgow, Mr Casey said that British Shipbuilders was aiming to deliver 24 ships in one year—over two weeks—starting in the last quarter of 1978.

Meetings with the ship stewards, both in the North-east of England and Scotland, had been "extremely constructive", Mr Casey said.

"The matter is now being considered by the ship stewards who will be meeting the workforce, and they will be giving me their response very quickly."

Of the seven orders to drive the 16,500-ton ships, five would be built at the Kincaid works on the Clyde and two in Poland. Out of 15 engines for the 4,500-ton ships, eight would be built in Poland and seven by George Clark in the North-east of England.

World orders down: Orders held by the world's shipbuilding industry have sunk to their lowest level since mid-1968, according to the quarterly survey of Lloyd's Register of Shipping. Nearly 80 per cent of the present order book is due to be completed by the end of next year.

Although three month treasury bills were trading at a level which, if repeated at Friday's weekly tender, could lead up to a rise in the Bank of England minimum lending rate—currently 5 per cent—the general impression in the market was that the authorities were not keen to see an increase in MLR at this stage.

The rise in interest rates for six to 12 month money has been going on for some weeks now, but the whole of short term yield has started to steepen noticeably since the publication last week of the October money supply figures.

The coupon on this week's issue of local authority yearling bonds reflected the recent change, rising from 6½ per cent last week to 7½ per cent.

The interest rate on the first ever batch of floating rate local authority bonds issued yesterday carried coupons set at 10 per cent over six months LIBOR for three year bonds and 1 per cent over LIBOR for five year bonds.

David Most writes: Ordinary savers suffered a seventh consecutive day of losses on the London stock market yesterday. With industrial worries and concern over the growth of the money supply, investors were not inclined to reverse their recent caution and the FT ordinary share index fell another 3.5 for a close of 471.8.

Gold-edged stocks were jolted by the high interest rate talk, though they managed to halve early losses of up to £3 by the end of the session.

There was an increase in those leaving the register in the three months ending October compared with the previous three months, while the average number joining remained the same.

The Government's special measures to raise employment are estimated to be helping about 320,000 people. The effect on the register is slightly less at 250,000.

Temporary employment subsidy covers the largest number of people at 139,400.

The gap between high and low unemployment areas is now widening in the North, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the worse off regions, dole queues lengthened in November, while in the better off regions the numbers out of work fell.

Sir Hugh Fraser in share switch

A share switch by Sir Hugh Fraser in House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group, was disclosed yesterday.

Sir Hugh, who faces charges under the Companies Act in relation to Scottish and Universal Investments Trust, has assigned all votes in respect of his holding of 800,000 shares in

## NCB Pension Fund and Midland Bank in joint financing ventures

By Desmond Quigley

National Coal Board Pension Fund and the Midland Bank are proposing to put up equity and loan finance for companies with a capitalization of between £5m and £20m.

Both groups—the Midland through its equity finance subsidiary Midland Montagu Industrial Finance—are proposing to take stakes of between 10 per cent and 49 per cent in individual companies with each investment ranging between £500,000 and £2m.

No upper limit has been put on the amount to be invested, although £20m is perhaps the first benchmark. The two groups will not necessarily be investing in the same proportions and indeed the essence appears to be that the NCB

fund will put up the bulk of the money while the Midland provide management services.

Major beneficiaries are likely to be the smaller public companies, although there is scope also for private companies.

The NCB fund has set up a special department to administer the scheme. A spokesman said yesterday: "We regard it as a good market for investment which to a certain extent has been overlooked."

"We are looking for the soundly based, well-established and well-managed company which is looking for capital."

He added that the fund essentially would be providing venture rather than risk capital.

Both groups have been partly

influenced by the Wilson Committee which has received much evidence suggesting that small companies face greater problems over fund-raising, although discussions between the Midland and the NCB fund were underway before the Wilson committee was appointed.

It is not either a particularly new step for either group, since the NCB in the past has invested in small companies while earlier this year the Midland, in conjunction with the British Gas Central pension funds and Prudential Assurance, set up Moracrest to channel funds into smaller companies.

Mr D. Kitching, general manager of the Midland Bank, said yesterday that the new development was complementary to Moracrest.

## Russia and Italy sign \$650m credit

Moscow, Nov 22—Italian and Soviet trade officials today signed a new \$650m (about £360m) credit agreement.

Taking part in the signing ceremony were Signor Rinaldo Ossola, Italy's Minister of Foreign Trade, and Mr Nikolai Pavlovich, Soviet Foreign Trade Minister.

The credit is to be in three annual tranches, 1977 to 1979. The first, for \$250m, has already been assigned.

Italian banks handling the credit are Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (IMI) and Mediobanca. Both are state-owned.

No details of the credit have been disclosed, but IMI and Mediobanca expressed confidence that they could place the proceeds of the European market fairly easily.

The credit follows one of \$900m opened in early 1976, which has been exhausted—AP-Dow Jones.

## Trafalgar confirms bid for Fairey

By Richard Allen

Trafalgar House confirmed last night that it is making an offer for the non-aviation business of the Fairey Group, which is in receivership.

Trafalgar said that it had made a cash bid of between £15m and £20m for the principal engineering subsidiaries including Fairey Engineering based at Stockport and other Fairey companies based at Heston, Middlesex, as well as certain freehold properties.

In a statement issued last night, Trafalgar, whose chairman is Mr Nigel Bruckers, declared that these operations were in the main compatible with and complementary to Trafalgar's own construction and engineering interests, mainly the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company based in Darlington and Teesside.

Sir Charles Hardie, the receiver of the Fairey Group, said last night that he would

be considering the Trafalgar proposals "in the light of other proposals under discussion". He would then be communicating with Trafalgar. Sir Charles declined to comment on the offer.

It is known to be considering a number of approaches and it is as yet far from clear whether he is prepared to sell the group on a piecemeal basis.

Earlier this month the receiver turned down an undisclosed offer from Short Bros & Harland, the state-owned Belfast aircraft manufacturer, for Fairey's British/Norman aircraft business in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The National Enterprise Board is believed to be another contender for the engineering interests.

In its statement Trafalgar said that it intended to continue and expand the Fairey operations "so far as is practicable and subject to profitability".

## Bonn forecast of 3.5 pc GNP rise

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Nov 22

West Germany's council of economic advisers today forecast that the country's gross national product was likely to rise by only 3.5 per cent in real terms next year after a 2.5 per cent gain this year.

But in their latest report on

the economy the five academics who make up the council argued that the Bonn government had done all it could to promote economic growth.

Although the annual rate of growth is likely to accelerate to 4 per cent in the second half of next year, the council expressed doubts as to whether

unemployment would drop significantly below a million if wages rose as expected by 5.5 per cent.

The council's prescription for an improvement was "for a clear change of course" in the level of wage settlements.

Union's deaf ear, page 31

## Rising yen brings fears of recession

From Peter Haselhurst  
Tokyo, Nov 22

Confronted on one side by international thrusts against Japan's trading policy, Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, was besieged at home today by businessmen leaders warned the government that the rapid appreciation of the yen would plunge the country's export industry into recession.

The warning was issued when leaders of four industrial associations, the ruling party's major source of financial support, met senior leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party to discuss the next Budget.

Mr Toshiwo Doko, president of the Federation of Economic Organizations, said the yen had been allowed to float up by more than 20 per cent this year to a record post-war level of 241.30 to the dollar today to placate Japan's trading partners.

This new rate, coupled with the fact that the government has done nothing to stimulate the economy since last year, was likely to lead to bankruptcies and unemployment unless drastic measures were adopted, Mr Doko is reported to have said.

Mr Fukuda's promises delivered to the conference of industrial leaders in May this year, that Japan would stimulate its economy and domestic demand to encourage imports, have so far not materialised.

Mr Fukuda now faces an acute dilemma. The Japanese Government can, of course, decide to devalue the yen to restore the export industry's competitive edge.

But many economists believe that the step would antagonize Japan's major trading partners,

## Further slide of dollar despite bank support

By Caroline Atkinson

The dollar plunged to new lows against the Japanese yen, the Swiss franc, and the German mark yesterday.

Despite considerable central bank support for the American currency, the dollar closed at 240.6 yen, 2.232 Deutsche marks and 2.406 Swiss francs in London. Its effective depreciation since Smithsonian, measured against a basket of currencies, widened to 2.52 per cent from 2.4 per cent.

Japanese markets will be closed for a holiday today, and dealers were nervous in case the dollar fell further against the yen while the Bank of Japan is not there to support it.

American markets will be closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving, and few will want to be long on dollars during the close. The Federal Reserve Bank spent \$10m supporting the dollar at the fixing, and more during trading.

Gold lost further ground despite the weaker dollar. Investors have become very worried by the weakness of the gold price while the dollar has fallen. It closed down 50 cents in London at \$156.875.

Sterling lost ground yesterday amid the general nervousness about pay, although it recovered towards the end of the day against the weaker dollar. It closed 5 points higher at 1.818 against the dollar but dropped 0.4 on the effective rate index to close at 63.3.

John Whitmore writes: Short-term interest rates continued to move higher yesterday on grow-

ing fears that the authorities may have to act before too long to curb the growth in the money supply.

Although three month treasury bills were trading at a level which, if repeated at Friday's weekly tender, could lead up to a rise in the Bank of England minimum lending rate—currently 5 per cent—the general impression in the market was that the authorities were not keen to see an increase in MLR at this stage.

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A share switch by Sir Hugh Fraser in House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group, was disclosed yesterday.

Sir Hugh, who faces charges under the Companies Act in relation to Scottish and Universal Investments Trust, has assigned all votes in respect of his holding of 800,000 shares in

## Economists surprised by decline in jobless figures

Continued from page 1

to interpret the figures as evidence of a definite improvement. It is felt that no clear trend has emerged yet.

It is nevertheless something of a surprise that unemployment has stopped rising this autumn. Most forecasts were for a continued rise throughout this year and many economists outside the Government expected a rise through 1978 as well.

However, the Treasury have recently argued that the potential growth of the economy, measured by output per month, has slowed permanently so that the forecast growth rate of 3½ per cent over the next year will bring down the numbers of jobless.

Lack of change in the dole queue while industrial output remains practically stagnant implies a further deterioration in productivity which would help to explain yesterday's unemployment figures.

It is also argued that employers are increasingly reluctant to lay off workers as the cost of hiring and firing have increased.

But this ignores the fact that many people join and leave the unemployment register each month. The total on the register is the net result of flows during the month.

There was an increase in those leaving the register in the three months ending October compared with the previous three months, while the average number joining remained the same.

The Government's special measures to raise employment are estimated to be helping about 320,000 people. The effect on the register is slightly less at 250,000.

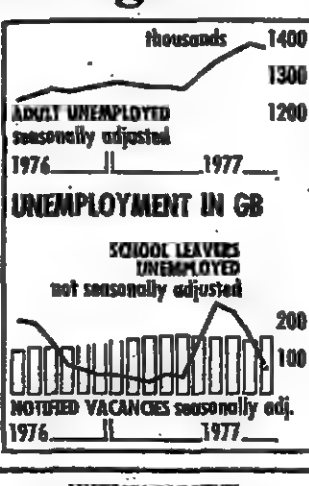
Temporary employment subsidy covers the largest number of people at 139,400.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment:

	Total notified vacancies	Seasonally adjusted	Adult vacancies seasonally adjusted
1976			
Nov	1,316	1,273	5.5
1977			
Jan	1,390	1,285	5.5
Feb	1,365	1,278	5.5
March	1,328	1,263	5.5
April	1,255	1,263	5.5
May	1,286	1,282	5.5
June	1,390	1,298	5.5
July	1,553	1,345	5.5
Aug	1,567	1,357	5.5
Sept	1,542	1,389	6.0
Oct	1,467	1,377	6.0
Nov	1,438	1,377	6.0

Figures not available.

Excluding school leavers.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly regional unemployment figures, seasonally adjusted, excluding school leavers:

	Number	Changes of all on month previous
East	332,100	-3,400
East of England	36,400	-600
East Midlands	117,000	-1,500
West Midlands	134,500	-2,000
East of England	77,800	-1,000
West Midlands	85,300	-1,000
North	204,200	-2,000
North East	111,700	-3,400
North West	85,300	-1,000
South East	176,900	+2,500
South West	137,500	-800
Great Britain	1,438,000	+200
Ireland	55,500	+200
UK	1,493,500	+200

## Doubts over boost for IMF quotas

From Our Economics Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 22

Doubts on the need for a large and speedy increase in the size of the quotas of the countries belonging to the International Monetary Fund seem to have been cast at a meeting of top officials from the Group of Ten most powerful industrial nations here today.

The officials were meeting to discuss problems of liquidity in the IMF, which is short of cash at the moment because it has lent a great deal in recent years.

Creditor countries in the Fund, which include such nations as the United States, Japan and Germany, are believed to have expressed reservations about proposals by the Fund staff for a rapid approval of an increase in quotas of between 50 and 100 per cent.

The size of a country's quota determines how much it may borrow from the IMF and how much it can be called upon to contribute.

To some extent the reluctance by the creditor nation to give more may be a bargaining tactic as the Fund tries to reach agreement on the scale of the next scheduled quota increase, the seventh of its kind.

Creditor countries seem to have argued that the most urgent task facing the Fund is to implement the two planned increases in its resources.

These are a general 30 per cent increase in quotas, which now looks likely to go into effect in the middle of 1978, and a special "Wittveen" facility to raise money from oil producers and rich western nations.

The Wittveen facility has run into serious trouble because of delays in ratification by the American Congress. The United States is the most important industrial sponsor of the facility, which aims to raise \$10,000m.

Officials in the Administration still say that they expect to get congressional approval for the facility but now admit they may have to wait until autumn next year.

Since the facility was originally intended to provide a "bridging loan" until there could be a large increase in the fact that it has been delayed poses a threat to its ultimate usefulness.

Officials at the Group of Ten are also thought to have discussed an increase in the General Arrangements to Borrow, which provides funds for lending to members of the Group of Ten through the IMF. At present, the GAB stands at \$6,400m, which is generally thought to be insufficient.

## Johnson & Firth Brown seek £10m by rights issue

By Nicholas Hirst

Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield steel group, is raising £10m by a rights issue on a one-for-five basis at 50p. The shares yesterday fell 2p to 57p on the news.

The directors say that they are determined to ensure that the group will continue to be able to finance the upturn in the steel industry when it comes, despite the effects of inflation in the meantime.

But Mr J. M. Clay, the chairman, gave a warning that the recession continues and that during the first few months of the year the effects were exacerbated by strikes both at JFB and its customers over

phase three of the Government's counter-inflation policy.

These factors will inevitably affect the results for the first half of the current year, Mr Clay states, but adds that the full year is still expected to be satisfactory.

Analysts' estimates are for £13m before tax for the full 12 months, which would include the group's contribution for the first time. Last year



## In brief

## Dismay over transfer of Freightliners to BR

The Government decision to transfer Freightliners back to British Rail was greeted with dismay by the National Freight Corporation yesterday but received a cautious welcome from British Rail.

Sir Daniel Pettit, NFC chairman, said: "I am sad that such a decision has been taken on what are clearly non-commercial grounds, and for reasons which do not relate to the way the company has been managed and its track record."

British Rail said that while it was glad the Government had recognized its arguments, it would be "inheriting problems", not least trying to work within limited investment possibilities.

## Vauxhall men vote to return today

The most expensive strike in Vauxhall Motors' recent history ended yesterday when a meeting of 800 skilled workers at its Ellesmere Port plant voted to return to work today.

All car, van and truck production stopped during the five-week dispute over craft differentials. It cost the company more than £80m worth of vehicles at showroom prices.

## £79m financing pact

Agreements to finance two contracts worth £79m between Simon-Carves and the Soviet foreign trade organisation were signed yesterday between Moscow, Grenfell and the Bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR. These will be guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The contracts are part of the intergovernmental agreement signed by the United Kingdom and Russia in February, 1975.

## Pembroke consortium

Texaco and Gulf are to form a consortium to be known as the Pembroke Cracking Company, to construct the joint catalytic cracking unit they plan to build at Pembroke at a cost of between £250m and £300m.

## Foundry expansion

S. Russell and Sons, Leicester, part of the B. Wilson Group, yesterday announced it had started work on a £2m expansion scheme which will increase output of its two foundries by 55 per cent. The Government is providing £500,000 under the Foundry Aid Scheme.

## Leyland UK tool deal

Leyland Cars has placed orders worth £1.5m with a British machine tool manufacturer. The contracts cover the supply of rotary transfer machines and other equipment from Wavie Engineering of Solihull. Wavie said the orders would be "widely welcomed as a clear proof of Leyland's stated intention of buying British machine tool equipment wherever possible."

## Trade deficit with Japan may be lower next year and dollar stronger

## Cuts in US imports of oil forecast

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Nov 22

A reduction in United States oil imports and a cut in the trade deficit with Japan are both likely in 1978. These developments could produce a significant reduction in the balance of payments deficit and so serve to strengthen the dollar.

Dr James Schlesinger, the Energy Secretary, stated here that oil imports in 1978 were likely to fall to 3.1 million barrels a day from the present record level of 3.5 million barrels. He said he expected the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to decide against a further oil price increase at its meeting in Caracas next month.

Mr Leslie Widman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, said the Treasury used somewhat different oil import figures from those used by the

Department of Energy. The Treasury was not convinced there would be much of a reduction in imports next year.

He admitted that if Dr Schlesinger's figures were accurate, then this could translate into a cut of roughly \$2,000m in the import bill.

Dr Schlesinger's estimate of a 400,000 barrel a day cut in imports depends, to a large extent, on heavy output of Alaskan oil more than offsetting any rise in demands resulting from the Government's effort to build up a strategic petroleum reserve of 250 million barrels.

Department of Energy experts believe Dr Schlesinger's prediction might be on the optimistic side, but they stress that the trend should be clearly towards a lower overall import level. They add that the prediction depends on the economy growing at the forecast rate, rather than at a faster rate.

The Carter Administration is

forecasting a 5 per cent growth rate for real gross national product next year. Many economists see this as being too optimistic, and a lower rate will produce even lower levels of oil imports.

Present estimates suggest a trade deficit this year of up to \$30,000m and fears of a deficit of equal size, or even larger, have been the main factors behind the recent pressures on the dollar. It appears, however, that some actual improvement in the trade deficit may be attained in 1978.

Progress in talks between the United States and Japanese governments on a reduction in the Japanese current account surplus could have a substantial greater impact on reducing the 1978 deficit than the new estimate of a reduction in oil imports.

Mr Richard Rivers, the general counsel at the office of the United States special trade representative, who has

just returned from a round of negotiations in Tokyo, said today that some progress had been achieved.

He said that Mr Robert Strauss, the United States trade ambassador, was likely to go to Tokyo for further negotiations in the next month. He added that in his talks in Tokyo this week "we had a frank exchange of views... we made a series of suggestions to the Japanese on how they should reduce their overall balance of payments surplus."

Dr Schlesinger said the Administration was "cautiously optimistic" that Opec would agree to freeze oil prices at its Caracas meeting. He said that his recent talks with the Shah of Iran and with Arab oil producers disclosed that the leading Opec members were aware that policies had to be adopted by all, not just by the consuming countries, to tackle the problem of future supply insufficiency.

## Call to restrict PO monopoly

Use of the Post Office's monopoly power is now a serious threat to the development of the United Kingdom's communication industry and the services provided to business and the public, according to a report published yesterday by the National Association of Radio Communication Services.

The association, which represents companies in the message handling industry such as radio paging and car telephone companies, calls for an Act of Parliament to remove the monopoly powers from the corporation and transfer them to the Minister for Industry, who would then be responsible for permitting and licensing specific areas of competition.

There is a growing body of opinion, the report says, to support the view that the aim of the Post Office should be to provide an efficient mail and telephone service.

If the Post Office divested itself of many of the auxiliary services, and the provision of various equipments, the capital and management effort released would provide us with the finest mail and telephone service.

## EEC may fix minimum import prices for steel

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, November 22

Minimum import prices for steel may be introduced by the EEC if President Carter approves proposals for fixing reference prices for steel imported into the United States.

This emerged after discussions here late last night between EEC trade and foreign ministers on the crisis in the Community's steel industry. For the moment, however, the ministers are waiting to see at what level the American prices are set.

Speaking for Britain, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, gave a warning of the danger of imported steel undermining the Community's system of guidelines prices designed to bolster the sagging market.

In a report to the ministers, Viscount Edmond Davignon, the EEC commissioner in charge of steel, said plans in the EEC were operating at no more than 60 per cent capacity and there was no sign of improvement.

Viscount Davignon indicated that next month the Commission would propose raising the guidelines prices for a range of steel products and the mandatory prices for reinforcing

bars by up to 15 per cent next year, but probably in several instalments.

He also outlined a scheme for subsidising the interest rate charged on restructuring loans to Community steel plants out of the receipts from the tariff levied on imported steel.

Speaking at a seminar on multinational companies organized by the English-Speaking Union, Mr Mervin said that the financial benefits to the United Kingdom of overseas investment were staggering.

The issue would now be raised with the Prime Minister Mr Mervin said. He said that the CBI had also commissioned a survey to show the benefits of overseas investment and the adverse consequences of the present regulations.

He disputed the argument that investment overseas would be at the expense of investment by companies in this country.

Dr Austin Pearce, chairman of Esso Petroleum told the seminar that planning agreements were the thin end of a wedge which would be driven between multinational affiliates and their parent company.

"When the development of such a planning agreement runs its full course, it is in my view a form of nationalization by stealth," Dr Pearce said. "Once the flow of information started to a bureaucracy which accepted no commercial responsibility for its actions, and whose jobs would not disappear if the company failed, then there was no mechanism to stop the slide to government control, except by pulling out."

Business Diary, page 31

## CBI plea on overseas investment

By Malcolm Brown

The Confederation of British Industry is continuing to press the Government for an end to exchange controls on direct investment overseas. Mr John Mervin, director general of the Confederation said in London yesterday.

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Business Diary, page 31

## Tokyo pledge on TV exports

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Nov 22

Japan's electronics industry agreed today to maintain a level of television and radio equipment exports to Britain in 1978 at a "reasonable level in accordance with the United Kingdom market requirements."

The British Radio Industry Council said tonight. Summing up two days of industry-to-industry talks in Tokyo this week, Mr James Griffiths, leader of the British delegation, refused to disclose the extent of Japan's future

share of the British market next year but added: "I am highly satisfied with the talks. Both the Electronic Industries Association of Japan and the BRIC have agreed to cooperate to avoid any moves towards protectionism."

The tone of a joint statement tonight would therefore indicate that the Japanese industry has agreed to abide by a policy of voluntary restraint and restrict any rapid expansion of electronic exports to Britain.

The tenth round of industry-to-industry talks will be held in London next year.

## Study of power stations offshore commissioned

A feasibility study in to the installation of offshore power stations on pockets of gas in the North Sea has been commissioned by the Department of Energy. Dr J. Dickson Mabon, the Minister of State for Energy, said yesterday.

Dr Mabon said it was possible to generate electricity offshore which could be brought to land by cable in cases where small accumulations of gas could not be economically linked to a pipeline system.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Industrial law: Britain has gone farther than most

From Mr W. G. Poeton

Sir, Mr Mordley's final plea (November 21) in his attempt to uphold the Employment Protection Act is for us in this country to fall into line with other advanced capitalist countries. This is typical of the academic approach. I can only conclude that in couching his appeal in these terms he is totally unaware of the feeling among those who run independent companies in Europe.

I attended the annual general meeting of the BDS (Germany) in Bad Duerheim a fortnight ago. At this meeting there was considerable criticism of the industrial legislation governing the activities of independent companies in the EEC and deep concern was expressed about the 6,000,000 unemployed in Europe. The general feeling was that the legislation was too onerous for those operating in the independent sector.

The truth of the matter is

that Britain has gone farther than other advanced western countries. Nowhere have to Europe does industry tolerate the legalized anarchy of the closed shop. Nor is there the equivalent of the politically motivated ACAS, whose powers to intrude and consequently disrupt are a grave impediment to industrial harmony.

I think if Mr Mordley is honest with himself he will have to admit that all is not as well as he would have us believe. Otherwise, Mr Harold Lever would not have been asked to the Prime Minister to look into the problems of small firms.

Yours faithfully,  
W. G. POETON,  
Chairman,  
The Union of Independent Companies,  
A. T. Poeton (Gloucester Plating) Ltd,  
Eastern Avenue,  
Gloucester,  
November 21.

## Management of enterprises and the British disease

From Mr J. Coyne and Mr B. Chiplin

Sir, In commenting on the recent Hobart paper ("Can Workers Manage?"), to which we contributed, your commentator Dennis Topping, argued that we have nothing constructive to offer other than the maintenance and extension of the "old order of things". We consider this judgement to be ill-founded. It appears to be based on a misunderstanding of our use of the notion of property rights in industry, which, in the manner in which it is discussed, has an implicit suggestion of the need for change and the possible directions that change could take. It is explicitly stated that the Bullock report does not coincide with any of these suggestions, and in that respect it might fairly be stated that our intention was to bury it.

We seek to establish the relationship between the right to direct and control enterprises and the receipt of a reward (profit) or penalty (loss) for so doing depending upon the success in achieving economic efficiency. We are concerned to show that the "British disease" has been accelerated by a reduction in the strength of this relationship and, recognizing this, we have no reason to defend the status quo. It is

therefore strongly implicit in our analysis that there is a need to effect change. Indeed, we suggest that careful consideration could be given to a radical change in the distribution of property rights so that workers become the owners of the enterprise sharing directly in the consequences of their actions.

If change is to be through a readjustment rather than a radical change then we imply a preference for the two-tier structure, drawing a parallel with Germany where this form of management was introduced to strengthen property rights on behalf of small diverse shareholders before the advent of worker participation. Other changes suggested are through increased involvement of institutional investors, which the Wilson Committee might profitably explore, increased competition in product markets and an improvement in the position of the small shareholder.

In sum, therefore, we establish the need for change if the "British disease" is not to reach its terminal phase. A change in the direction of Bullock could only be for the worse.

Yours faithfully,  
J. COYNE and B. CHIPLIN,  
The University of Nottingham,  
Department of Industrial Economics,  
University Park,  
Nottingham NG7 2RD,  
November 14.

## Urgent need for training in the crafts

From the Master and Upper Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Turners

Sir, John Bolton's article on the Government's attitude to small firms (November 2) is as clear as day. It is his committee's report. There is, however, a point missed in it which requires urgent attention—the provision of training in crafts for production other than on a large scale. The Worshipful Company of Turners was the first of the livery companies to promote technical education in its craft, and that some hundred years ago. We still continue, since we regard ourselves as responsible for maintaining and, where

possible, improving the standards of our craft.

Others, it seems, take a different view. For many years the Greater London Council had an evening class in wood turning—only one in their vast area. All machines were occupied five nights a week under the guidance of skilled tutors, one a Freeman of the Company. At the end of the last session the course was discontinued as "the space was needed for the expansion of the Joinery classes". Our representatives to the then Labour-controlled council were disappointed.

All commercial turners tell us that their greatest need is for

young trained craftsmen, one even going so far as to say that, with all but one of his men around 65, he foresaw the possibility of having to close down his full order book, including substantial exports.

Can Mr Bolton or anyone else tell us how to change this bureaucratic ignorance or indifference?

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM J. F. BENTON,  
Master,  
FELIX L. LEVY,  
Upper Warden,  
The Worshipful Company of Turners,  
Gloucester House,  
56 Giltspur Street,  
London EC1A 3PD.

## Engineering education in the universities

From Mr John McAfee

Sir, Professor Lowenthal's letter (November 16) has considerable relevance to the recent correspondence in your Business Views section concerning engineering education in our universities. He alleges that these are dying from want of enterprise which he attributes to the practice for financial reasons of appointing only young applicants as lecturers who, no matter how little they contribute, tend to remain in their posts in passive seclusion from the outside world yet may claim to dominate many academic departments.

It is possible that from such a background anything more than the elementary principles of engineering design can be taught to students? The eminent professors who contributed to the other correspondence appear to think otherwise, so it would be interesting to know how they react to Professor Lowenthal's statement.

The Financial Institutions Engineering profession might also note.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MCAFEE,  
13 Chancery Square,  
Putney,  
London SW15.

## Consumer spending under inflation

From Mr Robert M. Worcester

Sir, Frank Vogl's piece on consumer surveys in America (November 21) concludes that it is difficult to reconcile these conflicting results.

The apparent dichotomy between anticipation of economic disaster and high likelihood of purchase of consumer

durables is a common enough phenomenon when consumers expect inflation to erode not only their savings but the value of their disposable income.

Sincerely,  
ROBERT M. WORCESTER,  
Market & Opinion Research International,  
29 Queen Anne's Gate,  
London SW1H 9DD.

## An energy policy for Scotland

From Mr David Rolfe

Sir, Bryan Lovell (November 15) apparently arguing against Scottish self-government, states that "in an independent Scotland" many pits could only operate with large subsidies, or import controls to protect them from cheaper coal from say, Yorkshire, or possibly later, Belgium or Oxfordshire."

Does he not know that British coal is already protected? The CEGB would be delighted to import the very much cheaper coal produced by the United States, Poland or Australia but the Government now applies the very policy he attacks and does not allow these imports.

On this basis should he not be arguing that the United Kingdom should be governed from Washington and an end put to this narrow nationalistic protectionism?

Assuming that Selby, Belvoir and Oxfordshire are successfully developed, which is doubtful considering the history of the white-hot technological

revolution and grandiose projects like Concorde, then the result of not having self-government together with the application of Mr Lovell's theories will be the complete abandonment of the Scottish coalfields.

Mr Lovell has apparently not read our energy policy which recognizes the importance of international co-operation, the development of safe nuclear power and renewable resources and which also stresses the importance of conservation. Has he only recently become aware of the energy debate which started in the United States about 10 years ago?

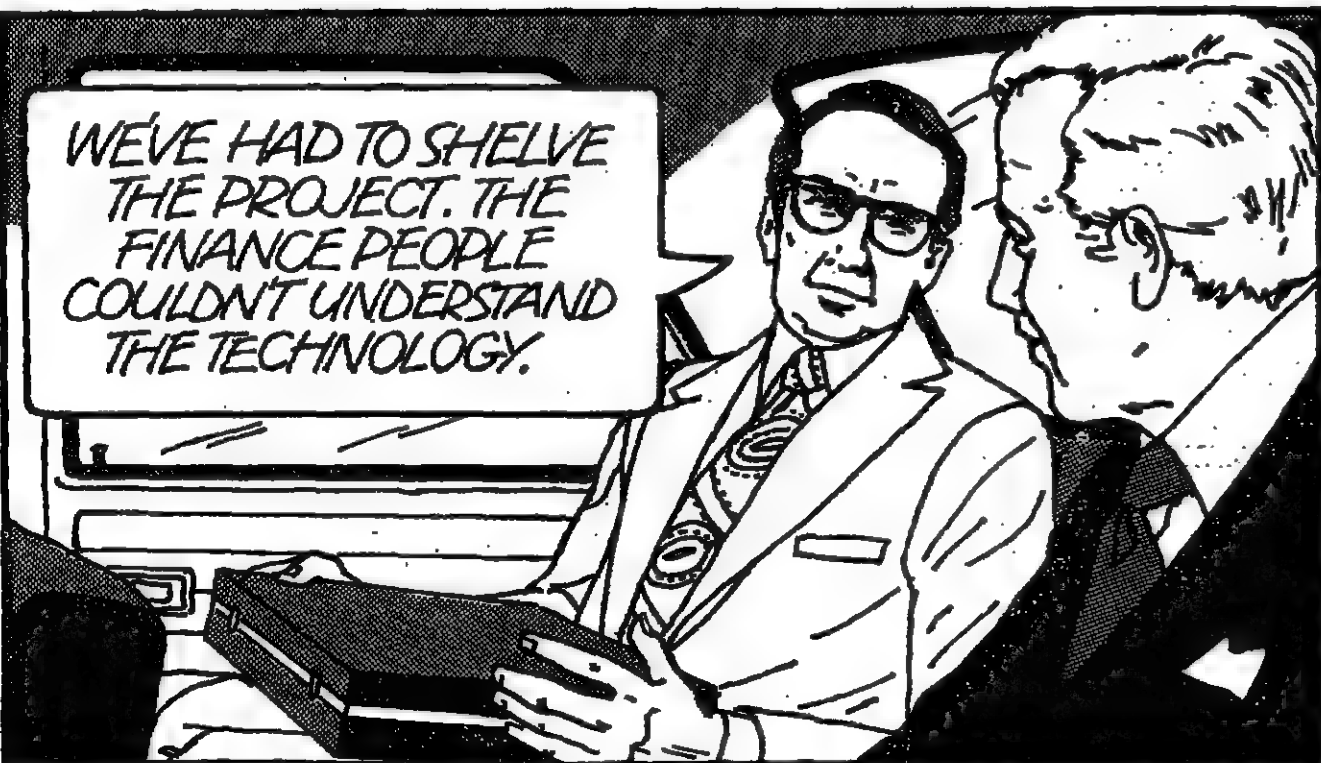
It could justifiably be claimed that the lack of a Scottish government allowed Aims of industry, at the instigation of absentee Highland landowners, to put a stop to hydro-electric development in Scotland. This source of power is much more easily harnessed than wave power but it will not, of course, help England to great extent, so nobody bothers

about it.

It would be important to a Scottish government. The hydro-board estimated in evidence to the Mackenzie committee that hydro-power output could be two and a half times present output.

Mr Lovell must live in an academic world of his own to talk about the need towards the breakdown of international barriers. Unfortunately, if similar circumstances should arise again, the Dutch would face the same callous indifference from their partners (including the United Kingdom) that was shown at the time of the Arab oil embargo. And the United Kingdom supply of oil to Nigeria is hardly a happy example of the breakdown of barriers.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID ROLFE,  
Convener, SNP Energy Policy Committee,  
6 North Charlotte Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 4JH.



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*Handwritten signature: J. J. ...*







## Europa

Only in West Germany does manufacturing industry still hold first place

### Rapid growth to the top of marketed services sector

Most of what we produce is intangible. Marketed services like banking, transport and insurance are the most important single source of national income in all European countries except Germany. Here manufacturing still holds first place.

This could be because Germany, unlike the other countries, obtains a higher value added per person from manufacturing than from marketed services. None the less the importance of marketed services is still growing in all the countries, including Germany. Both volume and prices for this sector have risen at above average rates.

Between 1970 and 1975 manufacturing, the second largest activity, declined in importance in Germany and the United Kingdom, but remained reasonably steady in the other two countries. (Nineteen-seventy-five is the latest date for which comparable figures are available, but the pattern is unlikely to have changed since then.)

### Rapid growth in Bonn and UK

Non-marketed services account for the greatest proportion (about one sixth) of national income in the United Kingdom and Germany. Growth in these two countries has been particularly rapid since relative volume and output costs have both increased. In France relative costs have risen but volume has been held in check, while in Italy the increases in both volume and costs have been fairly small.

As a result the proportion of national income produced by these activities is one seventh in France and one eighth in Italy. In all four countries the non-marketed sector is more important in terms of numbers employed than it is in terms of value added. This is because output per person is low. A possible reason is that output is valued at cost and the allowance made for depreciation is capital is inadequate.

On the other hand if a service is not sold in the open market its value at the margin may be less than its cost. The remaining three sources of income are banking and insurance, fuel and power, and agriculture. In the United Kingdom building costs have risen so rapidly that this sector's share of value added has increased in spite of a fall in the volume of work. Italy and France have also shown net output price increases which have almost offset the drop in volume, but in Germany the increase in prices has been no greater than the average for the other sectors.

Fuel and power produces

#### SOURCES OF NATIONAL INCOME AND CONSUMPTION—1975

	Germany	France	UK	Italy
Value added (3) from:				
Marketed services (4)	38	46	46	41
Manufacturing	41	32	33	30
Non-marketed services (5)	16	14	17	12
Building and construction	9	9	7	8
Fuel and power	8	4	6	10
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	6	2	10
Exports less imports	3	3	1	3
Overseas income less expenditure	-2	-1	n	n
Consumption of fixed capital	-14	-13	-12	-11
Net national disposable income	100	100	100	100
Net borrowing (+) or lending (-)	-9	n	+3	n
National expenditure	91	100	103	100

Source: Table 2, National Accounts Detailed Tables 1970-1975, Statistical Office of the European Communities.  
n=less than 0.5 per cent.  
(1) VAT deductible on purchases of capital goods has been divided between the sources in proportion to their value added.  
(2) VAT has been prorated between all sources except for non-marketed services.  
(3) At market prices, including indirect taxes.  
(4) Excluding net receipts of interest from other sectors.  
(5) Public expenditure on education, health, defence and administration and domestic and other non-marketed services eg, charities and other non-profit institutions.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## No solace for sad shares as gilts shiver

With an unsettled monetary background, investors were not disposed to put aside their present caution and for the seventh day running share prices lost ground.

Fears that interest rates may start an upward trend this week sent a shudder through both the equity and gilt-edged markets and though early losses were halved as late buyers came in the FT Index closed another 3.5 lower at 471.3.

Money supply and industrial worries were also in the forefront of dealers' minds but a higher number of bargains marketed provided a more encouraging topic of conversation. At 5.91 they were 1,000 more

A sad feature almost day after day is Lucas Industries. Dealers were left with a loss of 11p on November 8 with an 11p fall to 284p and yesterday they slipped a further 3p to 281p. Lucas has to cope with labour trouble and Leighton but that is not all. Many are wondering how Lucas will stick to its massive capital investment programme when profits are under pressure without either scaling down or making an abnormal cash call when market conditions may not be good.

Long-dated gilts were hard hit early on by the interest rate talk and in some cases lost up to three full points. By the close these falls had been pared to one and a quarter points with "shorts" ending half a point off.

Amid continuing speculation about its third-quarter profits

due tomorrow, ICI closed unchanged at 362p after touching 358p at one stage.

Worries over today's half-time figures left Metal Box 10p lower at 290p while others to lose ground were Pisons 10p to 385p and Unilever where the fall was 8p to 503p.

In the stores sector Comet Radio had a volatile day in front of any after figures. Caution ahead of the statement had the shares down as low as 133p but after the statement some of the "bears" were forced to close down and the shares ended 14p to the good at 150p.

Elsewhere Boots were hit by a "sell" recommendation and closed 4p off at 211p and Allied Retailers was another to slip, closing 4p off at 168p.

The Rhodesia sanction-breaking moves against Lucas hit the shares to the tune of 3p to 262p and Tesco eased another

penny to 40p in front of figures which are viewed with some trepidation because of the high street grocery price war.

One of the major causes of market depression was a 29.7m rights issue from Johnson Firth Brown which left the shares two points lower at 57p. Fading bid hopes lowered John Brown 7p to 226p elsewhere in the sector and another weak spot was to be found in Vickers which slipped 4p to 173p.

Reports that BOC is planning moves to raise its Airco stake did nothing for the shares at 75p but Weir Group continued to react to the breakdown of the merger with S. Osborn losing 6p to 112p. Barton Transport received some speculative support closing with a rise of 10p to 92p after recent figures which proved a disappointment.

In the shipping sector the speculators withdrew from Furness Withy with the shares

dipping 12p to 328p. British Commonwealth was another in retreat losing 9p to 275p and after a statement Roper 'A' was lowered 3p to 45p.

Favourable comment helped Carrington Viyella to go against the trend rising a penny to 34p but most of the drinks shakers spent the day in retreat, notably Guinness 5p to 183p, A. Bell 4p to 360p and Bass Charrington 3p to 150p.

Two leisure shares to come under some pressure were Coral which dipped 6p to 227p and Ladbroke where the fall was 9p to 175p. In oils Oil Exploration retreated 8p to 229p as profits were taken after some recent strong, if speculative, gains.

There were isolated spots of firmness in insurance notably Royal 3p to 380p, and Sun Alliance where the rise was 3p to 550p. But interest rate worries hit properties with

Chesterfield at 285p. Great Portland 278p and AEPC at 107p all down by five points. There was an even weaker performance from Stock Corporation which closed 3p lower at 220p.

Profits below market expectations hit Powell Duffryn with the shares closing 25p off at 188p.

Dealers are looking for better things from French Kier now that losses on road contracts have been eliminated. Investors

have been encouraged by the fact that the company is expected to be around 12.5m, against 1976's 12.5m, while the full year sights are set on a rise from 13.1m to 15.5m. Better liquidity will lower interest charges and this year the figures will not have to bear a 21.1m write-down on land. The shares were steady at 28p.

188p. Transpacific Paper was another to slump 5p to 57p after four consecutive gains. The scoring gains included Sketchley 2p to 42p and Nabors which added 12p to 33p. Leoboff slipped 2 1/2p to 47p.

After hours, ICI extended its rally further and most of the "blue chips" gained a penny or two. Colmore Investments came out with lower prices and lost 4p for a close of 25p. Equity turnover on October 21 was 146.1m (12.181 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were 847 and 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

### Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
AB&C Rg Inv (F)	—	0.05(0.02)	0.95(0.26)	0.30(0.25)	8/1	0.50(0.25)
Bradford Prop (I)	—	—	2.34(2.04)	2.3(2.0)	—	(16.0)
John Carr (F)	16.1(13.2)	2.5(2.0)	12.94(9.31)	1.2(1.0)	18/1	(1.6)
C. S. Ind (I)	6.2(4.7)	0.45(0.22)	2.08(1.5)	0.75(0.48)	8/2	(1.8)
Cent Radiovis (F)	82.9(47.4)	3.8(1.4)	16.6(5.5)	1.89(1.8)	10/2	3.5(2.1)
De Beers (I)	—	—	—	1.0(—)	—	(—)
J. E. Dennis (F)	5.6(4.8)	0.30(0.29)	6.57(4.92)	1.56(1.26)	—	2.8(2.3)
Dunlop & Co (I)	—	0.17(0.14)	4.03(3.22)	1.5(1.5)	—	(16.7)
Eng Nat Inv (I)	—	0.03(0.03)	4.03(3.22)	0.71(0.51)	—	(1.6)
Evans of Leeds (I)	—	0.4(0.30)	—	—	13/1	(2.3)
Ffr Anshcher (I)	—	0.05a(0.15a)	—	—	—	(N/A)
Hambros (I)	—	—	—	3.85(2.55)	—	(3.2)
S. Leoboff (I)	9.1(8.0)	0.8(0.76)	0.76(0.69)	—	31/12	—
Macdonald (I)	3.9(2.7)	0.30(0.38)	3.0(2.5)	6/1	(8.3)	
Norwich (F)	—	0.17(0.12)	—	3.0(1.6)	—	51(2.6)
Pull Duffryn (I)	153.6(122.2)	6.2(5.0)	3.5(2.7)	13/1	(7.8)	
Roper Hides (I)	—	1.8(1.2)	1.06(0.95)	15/12	—	—
Sekers (I)	2.3(2.0)	0.13(0.11)	1.15(1.03)	0.69(0.51)	27/1	(1.1)
Sketchley (I)	16.1(13.6)	1.8(1.0)	6.6(3.7)	1.75(1.35)	3/1	(4.1)

Dividends are shown in brackets. Dividends in Business are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.55. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a—loss; b—brands.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on price per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a—loss; b—rands.

### Sketchley makes clean sweep of records

By Our Financial Staff

An improvement in the industrial services side of Sketchley gave the group record sales and profits for the six months to September 30.

Pre-tax profits showed a near 70 per cent improvement, rising from £1m to £1.8m on sales up £2.4m to £16.2m. And Mr. William Whitman, chairman, forecasts a substantially improved results for the year though he warns shareholders that the exceptional rate of progress of the first half may not be maintained.

The changeable summer weather boosted trading on the dry cleaning side and a 6 per cent price increase in April helped margins.

At the end of the last financial year the profits split between the industrial services and dry cleaning divisions was about equal. But the chairman expects the latter sector to lose ground to the former in the current period, and he predicts industrial services accounting for around 70 per cent of profits by the early 1980s.

Losses from the troubled Belgian industrial services division amounted to £50,000 in the period and the indications are that the group will have to close it by the end of 1978.

The shares firming 3 1/2p yesterday to close at 93p.

Earlier this year the group landed one of its largest contracts ever placed for the hire and cleaning of overalls from Ford Motor. This contract, initially for two years, is valued at around £700,000 per annum and involves Sketchley providing overalls for 60,000 Ford workers.

Profits will begin to show through to results in the second half but the order has already pushed capacity up to 100 per cent at the cleaning factories.

A new plant at Basingstoke, being built for Sketchley on a sale and lease-back basis by the group, will have a capacity of 100 per cent by the end of 1978.

The group is now set to expand into the safety clothing and equipment market and will launch this service next month.

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### City verdict on Powell Duffryn: 'good, but must try harder'

By Alison Mitchell

The key factor in the half-time results of the Powell Duffryn Group is the interpretation of the word "significant".

For, at the time of the 16.6m rights issue in July, Sir Alec Ogilvie, chairman, reported that the year had begun well with the trading profit for the first quarter "significantly greater" than for the same period last time.

However an upturn in profits of around a quarter for the six months to September 30 failed to please the City. Markets men had been looking for a pre-tax profit in the region of £7.5m and a rise from £5m to £6.3m was just not enough.

The shares fell 25p to 188p.

Turnover rose £33.4m to £155.6m in the period, widening pre-tax margins by a full point to 5.3 per cent.

Much of the headway came from the engineering division. Growth on this side, which has been promised over the years, is now being seen in the weather boots profits from £225,000 to £758,000.



Sir Alec Ogilvie, chairman.

A lot more to come. In the six months trading profit on this side increased from £2m to £3.4m.

Fuel distribution also showed a remarkable upturn. Compared to the heatwave summer of 1976, this year's changeable weather boosted profits from £225,000 to £758,000.

The strike earlier this year at the British Steel works at Port Talbot, hit the pollution control division, and turned a profit of £145,000 into a loss of £175,000. But Sir Alec is confident that this division will be back in the black for the full year.

The other troubled division, building services, contracting, slipped further into the red with an operating loss of £480,000 in the six months. Problems in France and local authority cut backs put paid to any hopes of an improvement.

However there was a sustained increase in the contribution from Andrews Weatherfoil due to Middle East contracts.

Interest charges in the half year increased by around 50 per cent to £680,000 and, despite the 56.6m rights issue, are likely to be above previous levels at the year end. The stems from shipping loans and United States investments. The chairman reports.

As predicted at the time of the rights issue, the interim dividend has gone up 25 per cent to 5.3p gross.

## Beaver helps CH Inds to bumper half time result

C. H. Industries, the minor accessories to paints group, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £473,000 in the six months to September 30 as turnover soared from £2.7m to £6.2m.

The figures include the first six months trading of the recently-acquired Beaver Group. Mr. Tim Healey, CH's chairman, put the Beaver year's contribution at roughly £100,000 in the period.

Trading profits of £500,000 were broken down to show 40 per cent from unit trim, 25 per cent from hard trim, 13 per cent from building products, and 7 per cent from property.

This indicates a dependence on the minor industry of just over 40 per cent which Mr. Healey hopes to reduce to a third next year.

Within the paint products, the paint division, which consists of the Beaver paint activities and Hygiene Paint, made a £60,000 loss, and this is expected to be repeated in the second half. However, Mr. Healey expects to be profitable from property.

Commenting on the future Mr. Healey said the Beaver acquisition had reduced the impact of seasonal factors and he expected second half profits to show some improvement on the first half. However, the shares fell 2p to 23p yesterday.

188p. Transpacific Paper was another to slump 5p to 57p after four consecutive gains. The scoring gains included Sketchley 2p to 42p and Nabors which added 12p to 33p. Leoboff slipped 2 1/2p to 47p.

After hours, ICI extended its rally further and most of the "blue chips" gained a penny or two. Colmore Investments came out with lower prices and lost 4p for a close of 25p. Equity turnover on October 21 was 146.1m (12.181 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were 847 and 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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At the end of the last financial year the profits











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Contact Mrs. C. Porter, 405 2684.

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Salary to £3,500 p.a. plus expenses. Please send CV to: Guinness Special, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

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FASHION GROUP

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Salary to £3,500 p.a. plus expenses. Please send CV to: Fashion Group, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

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Salary to £3,500 p.a. plus expenses. Please send CV to: Well-Educated Sec. With, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

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